

## Anti-Gay Statements Written in Bathroom In Walker Memorial

By Marie Y. Thibault  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

An anti-gay slogan was found on Sept. 12 in a bathroom near the Rainbow Lounge in Walker Memorial. The incident is the most recent in a year-long series of anti-gay graffiti that has appeared in the same place on campus. The Rainbow Lounge houses student groups addressing lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered issues as well as a library of LGBT-related literature and films.

The slogan started with the sentence: "Homosexuality may be politically correct, but it will never be BIOLOGICALLY correct," and proceeded to graphically describe homosexual sexual acts, ending with, "Small wonder that's a prime vector for contracting AIDS. Enjoy...."

MIT Police have increased patrols in the affected areas but will have to catch an offender in the act to open an investigation, said Police Chief John DiFava.

James A. Nadeau G, who reported the Sept. 12 incident, said that the slogan

was written at the top of a blackboard in the basement men's bathroom in Walker and would have required a chair to reach. He said that this made him think that someone "really, really wanted to write it."

Sylvain Bruni G, vice-president of the Rainbow Lounge, said that such writings had been found in the same bathroom for over a year. He said that he believed they were all written by the same person, since it always seemed to be in the same style and handwriting. He also said that he has never seen this sort of writing anywhere else.

Bruni said that he personally did not feel threatened by the writings. However, he said that he can understand how intimidating this message would be to others who are looking to MIT for acceptance. "It is outrageous," he said, and it could affect others "really deeply."

### Recent incidents not typical

The slogans found in the Walker

Vandalism, Page 13



The Budget Rent A Car that was previously located on Massachusetts Avenue near Random Hall recently relocated to a lot behind Simmons Hall.

## Crowley, Director of Wash. Office And Fed. Relations VP, to Retire

By Kelley Rivoire  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Vice President for Federal Relations John C. Crowley will retire in late December or early January. The announcement of his retirement follows a string of recent departures by upper-level administrators as the end of President Hockfield's first year

nears — the period during which she asked all top administrators to remain at MIT.

The MIT Washington Office was established in 1991 by President Emeritus Charles M. Vest's in the first year of his presidency, and Crowley has served as its director since. The Washington Office is

MIT's main link with Congress, federal government agencies, and other higher education associations and science groups in Washington.

"I learned very early how deeply those in Washington recognize the contribution to the national welfare

Crowley, Page 17

## MIT Alumnus and 'Busting Vegas' Author Describe Experience of Beating the House

By Kevin Der  
ARTS EDITOR

Explosive laughter from alumni and students filled 10-250 while an amused voice with a Russian accent revealed his secret card-playing schemes that earned him millions of dollars. "At one point I had a casino convinced that I was an arms dealer. That

was one of my favorites," he said.

These words came from the mouth of Semyon Dukach SM '93, who once walked the halls of the Laboratory for Computer Science like countless others. But while many graduates' claims to fortune are through technology startups (Dukach himself has founded three), this MIT grad's fame was accomplished by doing the impossible — taking mil-

lions away from casinos in Vegas and other exotic locales, all using blackjack and simple math.

Dukach's tale is possibly the stuff of MIT students' fantasies — laden with sex, enormous sums of money, alcohol, and high risk. And here he was, back on campus walking through the Infinite Corridor, ready

Vegas, Page 18

## MIT Connects With New, Nearby Charter School

By Angeline Wang

Nestled between homes, businesses, and biotech companies in Kendall Square, a red brick schoolhouse is holding its twenty-first day — ever — of classes today.

A tall, greying woman in a business suit with a walkie-talkie stands outside the glass front door and greets the students by name as they

walk into the building, asking each individually how he or she is doing.

This woman is Paula Evans, head of the red brick schoolhouse, also known as the Community Charter School of Cambridge (CCSC).

Along with Emma Stellman, one of the assistant principals, and Robert Riordan, a curriculum advisor in Cambridge, Evans decided to start a small school where students could

Charter School, Page 12

## UROP Pay Up by 25¢ Per Hour

By Jessica Schirmer

MIT's research-driven undergraduates are moving up in the world with a 25 cent per hour raise.

The pay hike brings the maximum term-time stipend from \$1,200 to \$1,250, and raises the summer stipend from \$4,150 to \$4,275.

The last increase was in 2001, when the rate jumped from \$8 to \$8.75 per hour.

The hourly wages are dictated by balancing "how much we can pay with how many students we can fund," said Michael Bergren, assistant dean of Academic Research Initiatives. This year's budget for research funded through the UROP office, set at \$1.4 million for the academic year, is the same as last.

Melissa Martin-Greene, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program coordinator, said the UROP of-

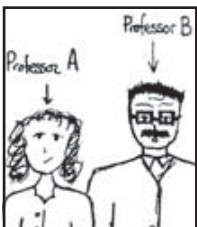
fice predicts its funding allocations using statistics from previous years. For example, 790 students applied for direct funding during the '04-'05 year, providing a baseline for the number of students the UROP office can expect to fund during the '05-'06 academic year.

Students funded directly through the UROP office, a subset comprising 38 percent of UROP's last year, are automatically affected by the elevated minimum wage. The wage set by the UROP office establishes the minimum wage for supervisor funded UROP's as well.

While the deadline to apply for funding through the UROP office was early this month, supervisor-funded research proposals as well as those carried out for credit or on a volunteer basis will be accepted through Nov. 3.



MIT Blackjack team member Semyon Dukach '93 (right) talks about his experiences in the casinos during the "Busting Vegas" lecture Wednesday night in 10-250. Author Ben Mezrich (left) added commentary about his own meetings with former team members.



Comics

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### TYPE TELME COMBO

The combination for Athena clusters will change on Monday, Oct 3. Type tellme combo at the Athena prompt for the new code.

### NEWS

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# WORLD & NATION

## House Votes for Changes In Endangered Species Act

By Felicity Barringer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

By a vote of 229-193, the House of Representatives moved Thursday to undo some of the central provisions of the 32-year-old Endangered Species Act and to require that agencies enforcing the law reimburse property owners if the law's impact reduces the value of their land.

Environmental groups expressed deep dismay at the measure, which, if enacted into law, would represent one of the most far-reaching reversals of environmental policy in more than a decade. Leading Democrats in the House also charged that it created an unlimited financial entitlement for landowners.

But the prospects for Senate passage are cloudy at best. Even the bill's sponsor, Rep. Richard Pombo of California, the chairman of the House Resources committee, said he did not expect quick action in the Senate.

The vote, which came after the defeat of a rival measure that re-worked the law but required enforceable protections for animals and plants in danger of extinction, was the culmination of a 12-year legislative mission by Pombo. The Bush administration gave its formal support to the measure a few hours before the vote.

## U.S. to Ban Imports of Beluga Caviar to Protect Endangered Fish

By Felicity Barringer and Florence Fabricant

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday that it would ban the import of caviar and other products from beluga sturgeon in the Caspian Sea, after caviar-exporting countries in the region failed to provide details of their plans to conserve the fish.

The species is internationally recognized as threatened with extinction. Beluga caviar is still available from countries in the Black Sea region, but information from three nations there is under review.

The United States consumes 60 percent of the world exports of beluga caviar, a \$200-an-ounce delicacy, the Rolls-Royce of caviars. Demand by the luxury food market for the black, cured roe has led to decades of overfishing, and stocks have dwindled sharply, particularly in the Caspian Sea, where the population of beluga sturgeon has declined by 90 percent in the past 20 years.

An article in the September issue of *Science* magazine cited Mohammad Pourkazemi, director of the International Sturgeon Research Institute in Iran, as saying that the most recent survey of the Caspian sturgeon population shows sturgeon stocks declined as much as 30 percent in the last year alone.

## N.Y. Times Reporter Freed From Detention After Agreeing to Testify

By David Johnston and Douglas Jehl

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Judith Miller, the New York Times reporter who has been jailed since July 6 for refusing to testify in the CIA leak case, was released from a Virginia detention center on Thursday afternoon after she and her lawyers reached an agreement with a federal prosecutor to testify before a grand jury investigating the matter, the paper's publisher and executive editor said.

Miller was freed after spending more than 12 weeks in jail, during which she refused to cooperate with the criminal inquiry. Her decision to testify came after she obtained what she described as a waiver offered "voluntarily and personally" by a source who said she was no longer bound by any pledge of confidentiality she made to him. She said the source had made clear that he genuinely wanted her to testify.

That source was I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, according to people who have been officially briefed on the case.

# After Confirmation, Roberts Is Sworn in As Chief Justice

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Elisabeth Bumiller

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Judge John G. Roberts Jr. became the 17th chief justice of the United States on Thursday, taking the oath of office during a brief but emotional White House ceremony just hours after the Senate, with its Democrats evenly divided, voted overwhelmingly to confirm him.

Twenty-two Democrats — exactly half the caucus — and the Senate's lone independent joined with all 55 Republicans in confirming Roberts, who, at 50, could shape American jurisprudence for decades. Senators are bracing for another bruising battle, with President Bush expected to name another Supreme Court nominee as early as Friday, although administration officials signaled that an announcement was more likely next week.

The vote reflected deep angst and disarray among Democrats, who were under intense pressure from liberal advocacy groups to oppose the nomination. At the end, there were a handful of surprises when stalwart liberal Democrats like Sens. Patty

Murray of Washington, Ron Wyden of Oregon and Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia supported the nominee.

"The Senate has confirmed a man with an astute mind and a kind heart," Bush said later, moments before Roberts took the oath in the White House East Room, which was overflowing with a standing-room-only crowd of Cabinet members, senators, seven Supreme Court justices and members of Roberts' family, including his two young children.

It was a day laden with historic import at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue — "a very meaningful event in the life of our nation," in Bush's words. Senators, who customarily mill around the chamber during votes, arrived at 11:30 a.m. and took their seats behind their 19th-century mahogany desks, standing one by one to announce their decisions as the clerk called the roll.

The longest-serving Republican, Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, presided. The longest-serving Democrat, 87-year-old Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, rose leaning on two canes and waved a frail finger in the air with a flourish, declaring, "Aye."

Roberts and many aides, joined by Bush, watched the proceedings on television.

The East Room swearing in occurred almost 19 years to the day that the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, for whom Roberts once clerked, took the oath of office in the very same room. Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, 85 and the only current member of the court who was also serving on it when Roberts was a clerk, administered the oath, swearing in a man 35 years his junior who was about to become his boss.

"What Daniel Webster termed, 'the miracle of our Constitution' is not something that happens every generation," the new chief justice said after reciting the oath. "But every generation in its turn must accept the responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution, and bearing true faith and allegiance to it. That is the oath that I just took."

Bush teared up momentarily during the ceremony, but the occasion was not without slip-ups and humor. Roberts, in a rare case of misspeaking, referred to the Capitol as "the home of the executive branch."

# As Winter Approaches, Natural Gas Prices Reach Record Highs

By Jad Mouawad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Natural gas prices set a new record on Thursday, pointing to sharply higher heating bills for a majority of Americans this winter and soaring costs for makers of energy-intensive industrial products like plastics and chemicals.

Since the beginning of the summer, the price of natural gas has doubled. But unlike crude oil or gasoline, whose recent price increases have been widely felt by most Americans, the price surge in natural gas — the most popular source for home heating across the colder regions of the country — has so far gone largely unnoticed.

That is about to change as colder weather sets in. After the hot summer pushed up natural gas consumption by electricity companies, the prospect of a harsher winter than last year on

top of two devastating punches to the nation's energy hub in the Gulf Coast has led to a significant tightening of natural gas supplies. And unlike petroleum, which can be readily stored in bulk for long periods of time, there is no National Gas Reserve to turn to when shortages arise.

"It's still under most people's radar screen right now," said Carl Neill, an analyst at Risk Management Inc., a natural gas consultant and brokerage firm in Chicago. "The public has absolutely no idea how high prices are going to be this year. It's going to be mind-boggling."

According to recent estimates by the Department of Energy, Americans are likely to pay roughly \$400 more for their natural gas this winter than last year, with average bills jumping to \$1,130. Many analysts, however, warn these figures might prove too low and are likely to get

updated when the government issues its winter outlook next month.

While commercial stockpiles of natural gas are currently above a five-year average, prices are now being driven by the uncertainties surrounding the impact of Hurricane Rita on energy installations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Natural gas prices for November delivery closed at \$14.196 a thousand cubic feet, a gain of 9.6 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude oil rose 44 cents and closed at \$66.79 a barrel.

Natural gas now costs more than three times its average of \$4.70 between 2000 and 2005 and seven times the 1990s average price of \$2 a thousand cubic feet.

President Bush, who called on Americans earlier this week to conserve gasoline by driving less, did not mention natural gas in his remarks.

# WEATHER

## You Shall Not Care About the Weather

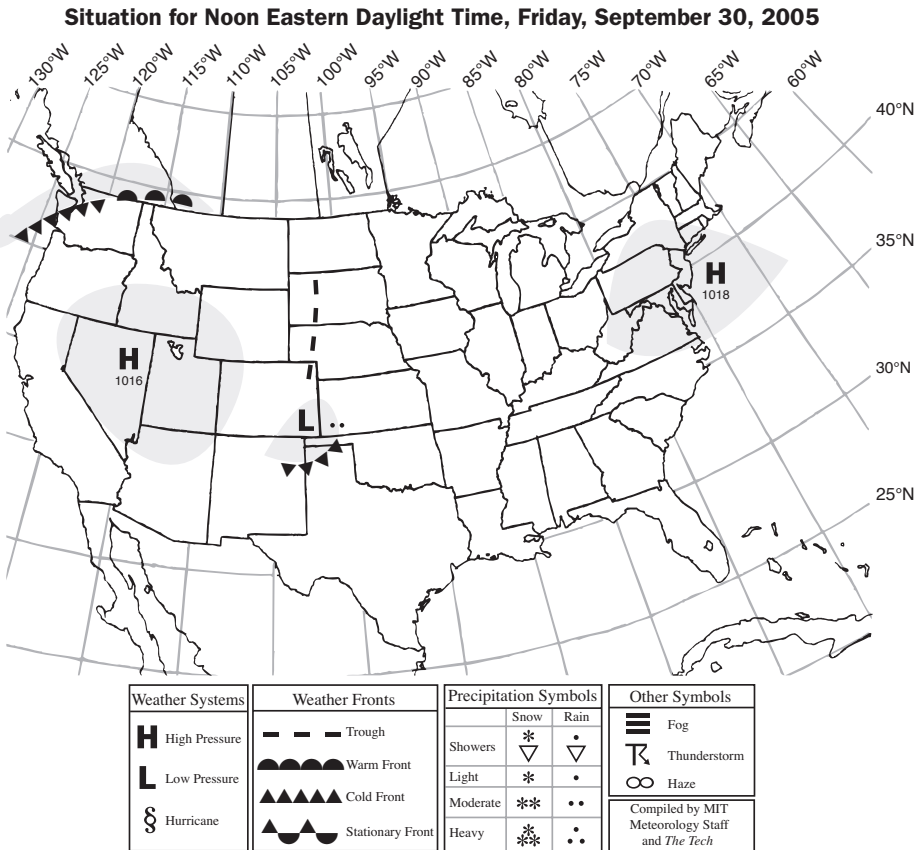
By Roberto Rondanelli

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After weeks of caring too much about the tropical weather, people around the US can finally take a break. With no significant tropical storm activity in Atlantic basic and with an equally benign situation in the continental US, weather (or at least the evil part of it) will not be a major issue the upcoming weekend. An anticyclone centered near the coast of Maryland with a central pressure of 1018 mb will bring fair conditions over most part of Eastern United States. As the anticyclone moves towards the ocean during the weekend, advection of warm continental air will contribute to increase temperatures in New England. On Sunday temperatures will likely reach above 75°F, about 10°F over the climatology for this time of the year. This warm pattern will continue even well into the next week.

### Extended Forecast:

**Today:** Mostly clear. High 64°F (18°C).  
**Saturday:** Clear. Low 50°F (10°C). High 70°F (21°C).  
**Sunday:** Partly cloudy. Low 55°F (13°C). High 77°F (25°C).  
**Monday:** Partly cloudy. Low 59°F (15°C). High 77°F (25°C).



# Difficulties Beset FEMA's Plans To Rehouse Victims of Katrina

By **Leslie Eaton**  
and **Eric Lipton**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

After Hurricane Katrina left hundreds of thousands of people homeless, the Federal Emergency Management Agency signed contracts for more than \$2 billion in temporary housing, including more than 125,000 trailers and mobile homes. But just 109 Louisiana families are living in those units.

A month after the disaster, the federal government's temporary housing effort is stumbling.

The inspector general for the Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday that FEMA is freezing many orders for trailers, although the agency disputes that. Members of Congress, complaining that a \$236 million deal to lease four ships to house evacuees was far too expensive, are calling for an investigation. And a rival FEMA program to give victims cash to find their own housing has already drawn 332,000 applications.

Federal officials acknowledge that the housing program has moved

slowly, especially in Louisiana. But they are blaming the state for the trouble.

"We as a federal government can't come in and just place anything anywhere," said James McIntyre, a FEMA spokesman. "This is not a takeover. We have to work within the limitations by state and local officials."

Louisiana officials, though, have been working tirelessly to find spots for the trailers, said Kim Hunter Reed, director of policy and planning for Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

Though the process is too cumbersome and should be streamlined, she said, "We are working as fast and as hard as we can to make this happen. We have thousands of people in shelters who are past ready to move."

More than 45,000 people remain in shelters in Louisiana, according to the governor's office, and about 30,000 are in shelters in other states. For those who want to stay in Louisiana, FEMA's new cash and voucher programs are not a solution, Reed said, because there is no vacant housing.

Some housing experts say it would make sense for the government to scrap plans for large-scale FEMA villages, or even the smaller 500-unit trailer parks that the agency says it now envisions.

"There are a lot of problems with trailers," said Susan J. Popkin of the Urban Institute, a non-partisan think tank. "You're concentrating people in the middle of nowhere, and once they're there, it's very hard for them to get out."

Especially if displaced families get relocation help and other social services, she said, they would be better off moving to places with existing schools, hospitals and other infrastructure. "People's basic needs go beyond a roof," she said.

FEMA is leasing three ships from Carnival Cruise Lines and a fourth from Scotia Prince Lines; together, they can hold 8,116 people.

As of Wednesday, 3,726 people were on the ships when a census was taken, suggesting they may be less than half full. FEMA officials say that understates occupancy, because not all guests are on the ship at any given time.

## Review Leads to Upheaval in Spy Satellite Programs

By **Douglas Jehl**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A high-level review led by John D. Negroponte, the new intelligence chief, is stirring a major upheaval within the country's spy satellite programs, beginning with an overhaul of a \$15 billion program plagued by delays and cost overruns.

In a terse announcement last week, the National Reconnaissance Office, responsible for developing and launching the devices, said only that a Boeing Co. contract to provide the next generation of reconnaissance satellites, known as the Future Imagery Architecture, was being "restructured."

But government officials and outside experts said Negroponte had ordered that Boeing stop work on a significant portion of the project, involving satellites with powerful electronic cameras, under a plan to shift the mission to Lockheed Martin, Boeing's chief competitor.

Under Negroponte's plan, the remainder of the program, involving satellites that use radar for surveillance, would remain with Boeing. But it is not at all clear whether the proposal goes far enough to answer congressional demands for deep cuts in spending on reconnaissance satellite programs that cost taxpayers billions of dollars and whose value is being questioned by Democrats and Republicans alike.

Members of Congress are calling for major shifts in intelligence spending, by transferring spending from satellites to human spying efforts. The review by Negroponte, who took over in April as the director of national intelligence, suggests some willingness to call for major changes in multibillion-dollar programs that had escaped critical scrutiny.

## Ex-Analyst at Pentagon to Plead Guilty in Secrets Case

By **Eric Lichtblau**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Lawrence A. Franklin, the former Defense Department analyst charged in a far-ranging national security inquiry with passing classified military information to pro-Israel lobbyists, has agreed to a guilty plea, officials said Thursday.

Prosecutors declined to discuss the exact terms of the agreement. It is to be formalized in federal court in Alexandria, Va., next week, when, court officials say, Franklin is scheduled to enter his plea.

But the unexpected development suggests that Franklin has agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in exchange for possible leniency and may now become the star witness against the two remaining defendants, Steven J. Rosen and Keith Weissman. Rosen and Weissman were dismissed last spring, amid the investigation, as senior officials of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC.

"When you have one member of an alleged conspiracy pleading guilty, there's always the distinct possibility that he will become a government witness," said John N. Nassikas III, a lawyer for Weissman. "But we're prepared for that."

Before he emerged publicly last year as the central figure in the national security investigation, Franklin was, for a short time, cooperating secretly with FBI agents in placing phone calls to other figures in the investigation in what amounted to a sting operation.

## U.S. Officials Fear Chaos If Iraq Charter Is Not Passed

By **Joel Brinkley** and **Thom Shanker**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Senior U.S. officials say they are confident that Iraq's draft constitution will be approved in the referendum to be held Oct. 15, even though Sunni Arabs in Iraq are mobilizing in large numbers to defeat it.

In testimony before Congress on Thursday, the senior U.S. military commander in Iraq, Gen. George W. Casey Jr. of the Army, said the most recent analysis of intelligence from across the country supported the Bush administration's optimistic predictions that Iraqi voters will approve the charter. But if the constitution is defeated, several officials said they feared that Iraq would descend into anarchy.

Approval "is critically important," a senior administration official said, "to maintain political momentum. That is the critical thing for holding this whole thing together."

Private organizations in Iraq, many working with government financing, say their own analyses, based on discussions with hundreds of Iraqis, polling data and other information, also led many of them to believe that the constitution would be approved.

Their calculations are complicated, because by law the constitution will fail if it is rejected by two-thirds of the voters in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces, even if a majority of voters nationwide approve it.

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# Leaders of Catholic Men's Orders Voice Objections to Excluding Gays

By **Laurie Goodstein**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Responding to reports that the Vatican may be close to releasing a directive to exclude most gay candidates from entering the priesthood, leaders of Catholic men's religious orders in the United States are planning to travel to Rome to voice their objections in person.

The trip is one of the steps by leaders of Roman Catholic religious orders to try to reassure priests and seminarians who have been rattled by news of a possible Vatican ban on the ordination of gay men.

Word of the trip was contained in an internal letter sent on Monday to leaders of religious orders from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the major U.S. coordinating body for more than 250 leaders of Catholic religious orders, like the Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits.

The letter was provided to *The New York Times* by a member of a religious order who said he was pleased by the superiors' actions.

In addition, at least two leaders of Jesuit provinces have written letters to their priests and seminarians reassur-

ing them that their sexual orientation is not an issue as long as they remain celibate and chaste.

"We're not going to push anybody overboard," said the Rev. John Whitney, provincial of the Oregon province of Jesuits, which includes 254 men in five Northwestern states.

The Vatican has not even released a document on the issue, which has been under discussion for more than 10 years. Several news outlets, including *The New York Times*, cited Vatican officials last week as saying that it would probably be released soon, but no Vatican order is certain until it is formally promulgated.

But several religious superiors said Thursday that even the anticipation that the church could exclude men from the priesthood because of their sexual orientation had prompted an outpouring of fear and concern among priests, gays and heterosexuals alike.

The superiors said their goal was to communicate to their men that they understood the effect that such a directive could have, and to convey that to the Vatican in hopes they could affect the document's contents.

"This is an anxious moment. It

creates difficult issues for people," said the Rev. Paul Lininger, executive director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, who signed the letter to his colleagues and spoke after being contacted by telephone. "But we want to be able to say to our men that we will be able to talk to various types of parties, and when the time comes we will communicate back to you."

He said the letter was supposed to remain private, "because we don't want to inflame situations, but we needed to respond."

That the leaders of religious orders would step forward is not entirely surprising, said R. Scott Appleby, a historian of Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame.

"Historically the superiors of religious orders have been more independent of the hierarchy," he said. "They are relatively autonomous and responsible for their own company of priests and brothers."

In addition, Appleby said, "They have their own long traditions of priestly recruiting and formation, and they feel responsible toward and protective of those traditions."

# Chinese Horseshoe Bat Found to Play Host to SARS Virus, Scientists Find

By **Lawrence K. Altman**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The SARS virus, which has killed 774 people worldwide, has long been known to come from an animal. Now two scientific teams have independently identified the Chinese horseshoe bat as that animal and as a hiding place for the virus in nature.

The bats apparently are healthy carriers of SARS, which caused severe economic losses, particularly in Asia, as it spread to Canada and other countries. In Asia, many people eat bats or use bat feces in traditional medicine for asthma, kidney ailments and general malaise.

The Chinese horseshoe bat does not exist in the United States.

The finding is important in preventing outbreaks of SARS and similar viruses carried by bats because it provides an opportunity for scientists to break the transmission chain.

One team from China, Australia and the United States reported its findings Thursday in the online version of *Science*. The other team, from the University of Hong Kong, reported its findings on Tuesday in *The Proceed-*

*ings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"It's pretty pleasant to see two teams that did not know each other reach similar findings," Dr. Lin-Fa Wang, a virologist at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, said in a telephone interview. After collecting hundreds of bats from the wild and from Chinese markets, each team reported identifying different viruses from the coronavirus family that are very closely related to the SARS virus.

SARS, or sudden acute respiratory syndrome, first appeared in China in 2002. It spread widely in early 2003 to infect at least 8,098 people in 26 countries, according to the World Health Organization. The disease died out later in 2003, and no cases have been reported since.

SARS now appears to join a number of other infectious agents that bats can transmit. Over the last decade, bats have been found as the source of two newly discovered human infections caused by the Nipah and Hendra viruses that can produce encephalitis and respiratory disease.

In the SARS outbreak, attention focused on the role of Himalayan palm civets in transmitting it after scientists identified the virus in this species and in a raccoon dog sold in markets in Guangdong.

But WHO officials and scientists elsewhere cautioned that these species were most likely only intermediaries in the transmission, largely because no widespread infection could be found in wild or farmed civets. So the teams assembled a variety of specialists, including veterinarians, zoologists, virologists and ecologists.

Wang said his group focused on bats largely because of the team members' earlier pioneering work on the Hendra and Nipah viruses. One member, Dr. Jonathan H. Epstein, a veterinary epidemiologist at the Consortium for Conservation Medicine in Manhattan, led the scientists in gathering bats from the wild and market places.

After obtaining fecal and blood samples, the scientists released the bats into the wild or returned them to the markets. The specimens were tested for a variety of viruses that infect animals.

# OPINION

## Letters To The Editor



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### A Message To Democrats

As thousands of Americans descend on Washington D.C. this weekend to protest the war in Iraq, thousands more in the Gulf Coast, including members of my own family, are growing more vocal in their broad criticism of the federal government. Still, the Bush administration is in denial, believing that it can continue to ignore the mounting resentment and anger. The American public, however, is beginning to recognize how deeply flawed Bush's agenda is.

The Democratic Party has begun, hesitantly, to criticize Republican values and policies.

More and more mainstream Democrats, both citizens and politicians, are saying that the war in Iraq was a mistake. Still, some Democratic Senators and members of Congress are flailing, uncertain whether the anti-war sentiment will continue to mount, uncertain how strongly to criticize a president who was so recently admired as an American hero.

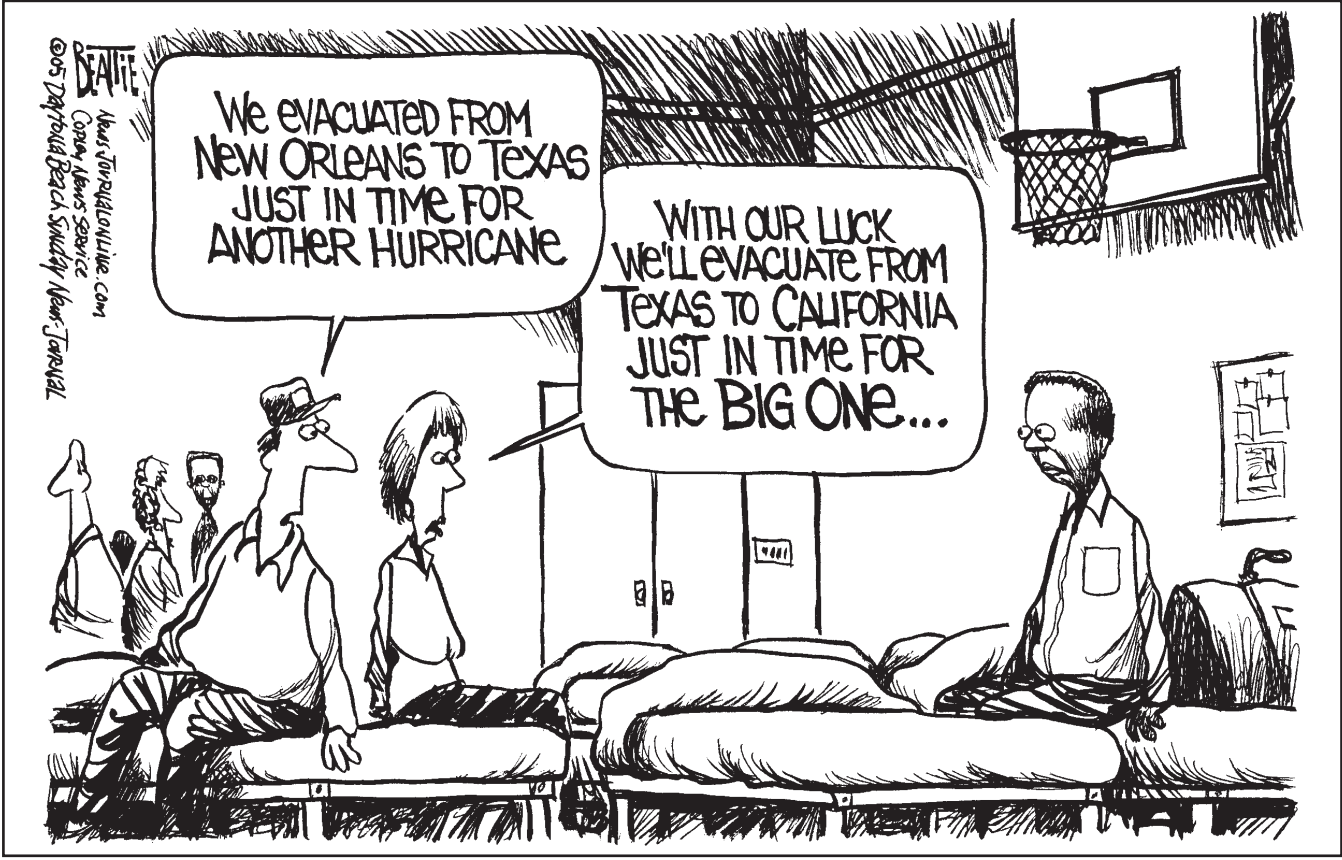
Startling and exciting changes have occurred on our campus (and according to some, others across the country) in the last few months. Students who so recently dismissed government as ineffective and meddling are suddenly calling for progressive change. There is a distinct feeling in the air that something huge is about to happen.

Americans are craving strong leadership,

and we must show them that Democrats can provide it. We must seize this opportunity to stake out a strong position that defines our values for America. The move-towards-the-center technique has been tried and has failed. (Kerry was deemed a flip-flopper while ultra-conservative Bush was "strong.") We must show that we, too, are a party of values and compassion. Liberals, don't be afraid to know your position and stick with it; we are the majority now.

As the weekend's events come to a close, I pray that Democrats will not half-heartedly distance themselves from the Left. The Democratic Party must unite with the D.C. protestors, with the survivors of Katrina and Rita, and against the war in Iraq.

Claudia M. Gold '07



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ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

Dickensian London With a “Twist” of Hope

Innocence Prevails in Polanski’s Retelling of Orphan’s Journey from the Poorhouse

By Rosa Cao

*Oliver Twist*  
Directed by Roman Polanski  
Based on the novel by Charles Dickens  
Screenplay by Ronald Harwood  
Starring Ben Kingsley, Barney Clark,  
Jamie Foreman, Harry Eden  
Rated PG-13  
Opens Today

Picture yourself walking across green fields into an English sunset; scraping your sleeve across a milestone, you see “London: 70 Miles.” So fares orphan Oliver Twist with tattered shoes and half a loaf of stale bread knotted in a cloth. Having just run away from his latest position, he heads toward the excitement, hope, and danger of Victorian London, penniless as ever, but free for the first time in his life.

He almost starves on the seven-day hike — this is not the happy ending of a fairy tale, but its beginning. The real excitement starts upon his arrival in London, when, hungry and footsore, he is adopted by the Artful Dodger (Harry Eden), a young pickpocket wise in the ways of underground London. The Artful Dodger procures him food with a practiced hand and takes him into the company of Fagin’s den of thieves.

In knitting Dickens’ sometimes rambling tale of Oliver’s journey into a 130-minute movie, director Roman Polanski manages to retain its most memorable scenes and characters. All the famous lines are there: “I want some more,” says Oliver after a scant poorhouse meal, convincing his guardians once and for all that he is a hardened criminal destined for the gallows.

For much of the movie, Oliver is a pawn, tossed from one set of callous arms and hard hands to the next. This is the movie’s only weak point; Oliver has so little opportunity to show character of his own that it’s hard to remember

why we should care about him as anything more than an embodiment of pretty-faced innocence. And when he is adopted into the comfort of Mr. Brownlow’s home, one wonders whether Oliver is really “good” (in choosing virtue and honesty over a criminal life), or if he has simply been seduced by this unaccustomed material comfort and safety.

From the sepia-toned gray of the almost mythic poorhouse to the golden-green garden of Mr. Brownlow’s suburban paradise Polanski recreates the London of the imagination in the rich darkness of Fagin and the boys in their rooftop lair in the slums. In a beautifully orchestrated dance of “the game,” Oliver is shown how to pick pockets by the boys, while Fagin plays the unsuspecting rich victim. A charming soundtrack appropriately highlights every stunt but is never heavy-handed.

While many of the minor characters are but caricatures of hypocrisy or small-minded selfishness, Polanski gives them a gift of humor lacking in the original; unlike Dickens, this movie never takes itself too seriously. Despite the poverty, injustice, and betrayal, there are plenty of hilarious moments.

Barney Clark is appropriately charming as the young Oliver, full of trusting innocence, with a spark of fun and determination as well. When circumstances turn against him, as they so often do, Clark is almost as good as Frodo, though significantly less annoying, at looking utterly victimized. Ben Kingsley plays a wonderfully hideous Fagin, who is kind in his greasy selfish way. (All references to Fagin’s



SONY PICTURES

Opening today, “*Oliver Twist*” is Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski’s screen adaptation of Charles Dickens’ classic novel.

ethnicity were expunged in this adaptation.) Jamie Foreman is convincingly evil as the cold-hearted murderer Bill Sykes, and Leanne Rowe inspires pity and admiration as the martyred Nancy Sykes. Edward Hardwicke is Mr. Brownlow, Oliver’s fallible would-be rescuer, who, despite ridiculous sandy whiskers and a middle-class naïveté, manages to bring Oliver safe and home at last.

Polanski intended this movie for children; he shares Dickens’ hope that “the little children be saved.” Perhaps because of this, Polanski protects us from the full darkness of his sub-

ject. He distances us from the most disturbing scenes with melodramatic flourishes and touches only lightly on the harsh realities of Victorian England’s poor, despite Dickens’ obsession with that topic. And in that spirit, hope (for Oliver at least) is always peeking through the cracks, though his companions have ends appropriate to a cautionary tale.

Polanski recreates this classic tale with sympathy and tenderness born of a childhood not unlike Oliver’s own. For all but the most hardened realists, the resulting fairy tale journey is a delight.

FILM REVIEW ★1/2

‘Into the Blue’ Sinks Like a Stone

Bigger Boat Can’t Salvage Nonsensical Plot

By Nikhil Nadkarni

*Into the Blue*  
Starring Paul Walker, Jessica Alba,  
Josh Brolin, Ashley Scott  
Directed by John Stockwell  
Written by Matt Johnson  
Studio Columbia Pictures  
Rated PG-13  
Opens Today

You’ve probably seen the trailers for “Into the Blue,” Columbia Pictures’ newest release on TV. You’ve seen, then, a few shots of treasure hunters swimming around in the Caribbean, stumbling across some mystery. In that case, I think you’ve already seen enough of the film.

Hollywood frequently brings us thrillers that fail to weave action and story together into an entertaining film. It’s been a while, however, since I’ve seen a thriller with so little meaning in its story.

From the start, it’s evident that a lot of the movie will be either unexplained or unnecessary. We start with Gerald (Paul Walker of “Fast and the Furious” fame) and his girlfriend Sam (Jessica Alba from “Fantastic Four” and “Dark Angel”) living the carefree life of Bahamian treasure hunters. They haven’t found anything yet, so I wonder how they pay the bills; but never mind, the movie doesn’t seem to care.

With their visiting friends Bryce (Scott Caan) and Amanda (Ashley Scott), they swim in shallow Bahamian waters looking for treasure. On one of these lazy afternoons, Gerald, swimming down to retrieve his dropped watch, discovers an ancient French sailing vessel and, improbably enough, a drug runner’s sunken plane with 800 kilograms of cocaine still on board. Following an overly dramatic argument, the explorers choose to study the French ship and stay away from the cocaine. After exploring the ship for a day — with many unabashed body shots of the swimsuit-clad actors and actresses — the four go to the local nightclub, where they get into a fight with a guy who, incidentally, turns out to be the local drug king’s henchman.

I could say more about how the group becomes entangled with the drug runners and what they do about it, but I’ll stop — not because I’d ruin something for you, but rather because I might forget one of the many highly

dramatized twists and turns that comprise the rest of this 110-minute movie. “Into the Blue” is scripted with as many twists as possible to build suspense and boggle the minds of the viewers, with each twist more dramatized than the last. This might help pique your interest for the first 30 minutes or so, but these surprise developments soon become cheesy and eventually foolish.

The characters are never really developed and, with the exception of Gerald, remain flat and stereotypical. Bryce, for example, is the slick New York lawyer who always has something slick to say; he displays no other emotion. Furthermore, the interactions between the characters are written inconsistently, so it appears that the four undergo huge mood swings every 10 minutes. Sam jests with Amanda at one moment, but minutes later, argues with her so coarsely that it would seem they had hated each other for years. As experienced actors, Alba and Walker do the best they can given such writing, but they don’t salvage the character development.

You might be thinking that you don’t see an

action-thriller movie for the tear-jerking acting or warm characters. You see it for the intense action sequences and the pure thrill, right? Not this movie. The action is sparse and the scenes featuring combat are not amazing. One car chase has great potential but ends anticlimactically after about 20 seconds. The only worthwhile action sequence is the final one. Other than that, you have a few cool scenes — like the fight breaking out in the club — and that’s about all the movie offers in the way of thrill.

To be fair, the movie does feature amazing shots of the Caribbean seascape. Some of the underwater camera work really makes you feel like you’re floating, rolling, and turning around underwater. Additionally, the humor that accentuates the first third of the movie is hilarious and clever.

But in the end, these few qualities don’t redeem a movie that is crammed full of cheesy drama and lacks quality action scenes. I was amazed at how little thought was evidently been put into structuring this movie. If you’re headed to the theater this weekend, don’t bother with this film.



MGM AND UNITED ARTISTS

“*Into the Blue*” takes its cast, including Paul Walker and Jessica Alba (right), on a series of predictable twists.

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

Feeding the ‘Firefly’ Fanatics

Joss Whedon Triumphs in Directorial Debut With ‘Serenity’

By Nivair H. Gabriel

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

*Serenity*  
Directed by Joss Whedon  
Written by Joss Whedon  
Produced by Christopher Buchanan  
Starring Nathan Fillion, Gina Torres,  
Alan Tudyk, Morena Baccarin  
Universal Studios  
Rated PG-13  
Opens Today

For the creator of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Angel,” and “Firefly,” the transition from season-long story arcs to a 119-minute film probably seemed a Herculean task. Joss Whedon, however, does not shy away from challenge, and “Serenity,” a film adaptation of “Firefly,” is both a fanat-

ically pleasing romp and an action-packed introduction to a fabulous new world. If you are a fan “Firefly,” which told the story of a spaceship crew 500 years in the future, be warned — you won’t see copious screen time for your favorite characters, unless your favorite character is swaggering, ruthlessly attractive Captain Mal Reynolds (Nathan Fillion). Details of the universe become clear quickly as the plot progresses; while the delicacy of Whedon’s writing makes sure that the uninitiated will understand. Viewers catch only a glimpse of typical daily life on the humble spaceship Serenity and have to pick up the meaning of things like “reavers” and “shiny” for themselves. Thankfully, Whedon understands that this is an action movie with a message, not a television serial with hours of time to spend on character description and soliloquies.

Whedon, however, is also a master of realis-

## CONCERT REVIEW

# M.I.A. Brings Diversity to Paradise Rock

## Sri Lankan Pop Artist Fills Sound and Lyrics With Immigrant Experiences

By Mirat Shah

*M.I.A.  
Paradise Rock Club, Boston  
Sept. 23, 2005*

There is absolutely no doubt about it — Maya Arulpragasam, alias M.I.A., represents the face of music of the future, as was readily apparent at her performance last Friday at the Paradise Rock Club in Boston. The diversity — not just of her music, but also of her background and of her audience — was amazing.

Understanding the origins of Arulpragasam's music requires knowing about her traumatic past. Her father was a member of the Tamil Tigers, a militant rebel group opposing the government of Sri Lanka in an ongoing civil war. Because of her father's role in the war, living in one place was so dangerous that her family moved around

Sri Lanka and India for much of her childhood. Her family eventually fled, and Arulpragasam immigrated to England at age 11.

The influences of these different places and people were rich fodder for Arulpragasam's artistic soul. She first tried to synthesize them as an aspiring painter and graffiti artist; a book of her work titled M.I.A. was published. Her alias, M.I.A., is an outgrowth of this. She realized she liked expressing herself through singing much better and has stuck with making music ever since.

Just as M.I.A. combines disparate influences to make her music, she unites a disparate array of people who appreciate her music. Her show was attended by distinct populations of rap and hip-hop fans who liked her sound, indie rock snobs attracted to her uniqueness, scholarly types interested in her history, and immigrants who related to her experience. If not for M.I.A.,

these people would never be found in the same place or acknowledge that they enjoy the same type of music. Instead, everyone swayed, bopped, shouted, and danced unashamedly to the music.

Most impressive is the diversity of M.I.A.'s music. She combines rap lyrics, hip-hop sensibility, African sounding backbeats, English samples, and Indian ditties to create a coherent, authentic sound. Her song "Sunshowers" opens with a bongo drum, leading into M.I.A. rapping in her sing-song voice; it also features a sample from a popular 70s English song as the chorus. This melody was especially impressive live because instead of sampling the 70s song, M.I.A.'s sidekick and back-up dancer sang the chorus in a beautiful soprano, wowing the crowd. When M.I.A. chants "To Congo/To Columbo/ Can't stereotype my thing yo," she is exactly right.

While her music was impressive, her charisma carried the night. The chanting, sing-along

nature of her music is meant to be heard live with a participatory experience. M.I.A. did not disappoint. She regularly thrust her microphone into the crowd, laughed at the audience's antics, made everyone yell with her, and seemed to be having the time of her life. By the end of the night, everyone loved not only her music, but also her. When M.I.A. explained, drawing on her immigrant experiences, why she licensed her song "Galang" to Honda, which would usually be cause for denigration in the music world, the audience (indie rock fans included) roared its approval. Her exceptional life experiences have made her a figure of wisdom and respect, allowing her simultaneously to be ghetto fabulous and a role model, no easy feat.

M.I.A.'s sound is truly that of the future because she uses the uniqueness of her life and music to proclaim universal messages. She acts as an advocate, discussing the difficulty of the immigrant experience, approving of strong women, supporting personal independence, and giving voice to resistance movements worldwide. In "Sunshowers" she sings, "Like PLO, I don't surrender."

My only criticism of M.I.A.'s performance was its brevity, with her appearance lasting barely 40 minutes; however, she is a new artist with a shallow pool of material. One can only hope she stays on the scene for years to come, entertaining and surprising us, and providing longer concerts for us to enjoy in the future.

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THE HUNGRY BEAVER

Setting a Standard

Kenmore's Eastern Standard Kitchen Raises Bar With Seafood, Sorbet

By Yao-Chung King  
STAFF WRITER

The Hungry Beaver reviews area restaurants in search of hidden gems to expose to the student community every other week. It aims to uncover obscure restaurants that provide good food and service, appeal to a broad section of students, and are geographically and financially accessible to students. Look to the Hungry Beaver to expand your dining options, and live by the Hungry Beaver Credo: "Eat well with good company. Live well with good company."

Eastern Standard Kitchen  
528 Commonwealth Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115  
617-532-9100

A new red awning overhangs Commonwealth Avenue, preventing the street's construction from hiding another recent Kenmore arrival: Eastern Standard Kitchen. Open since summer, ES is poised to swing the dining preferences of MIT students.

My first entrance to ES produced a silent "wow" as I scanned the vast room that is the restaurant's main dining area. The high ceilings and chandeliers give the restaurant a grand feel, and the room is tastefully furnished with comfortable mahogany-colored padded booths. The entire room has a new-old feel to it, as if ES had just opened in your grandfather's time. I was impressed by the well-styled room and long oak bar and was eager to taste the menu.

The appetizers include basics: mussels, salt cod fritters, and fried calamari. The fried calamari (\$10) makes my top three list in the Boston/Cambridge area (the West Side Lounge is tops). The calamari and cherry peppers are fried and served with an old bay aioli and is usually salted right to my tastes. The calamari portion is huge. It's great to share among three people, though if you're like me, you'll want it to yourself. The salt cod fritters (\$10) are served in a tiny wood crate, and while the presentation is interesting, the flavor of the fritters is a surprisingly bland departure from what I've come to expect from fried foods. The same dash of kosher salt that's applied to the calamari would do wonders for the cod.

If you're feeling adventurous, Eastern Standard takes a risky step away from the norm with other items on the appetizer list: offal, foie gras, and roasted bone marrow. I don't often see these items offered, and I was intrigued enough to eventually try them all. Offal (\$9), composed of animal innards and extremities (the meats often made into sausage and scrapple), is served in pâté form with bread and mustard. It tastes surprisingly good if you don't think about what you're actually eating.

The foie gras, (\$14) goose liver pâté, is known for its velvety smoothness and richness. The taste of liver is unmistakable in this dish, so if you're a fan, this is a great value (foie gras is typically

expensive). Otherwise, keep looking. Finally, the roasted bone marrow, (\$6) served with sea salt and spicy mustard is another one of those niche foods. For me, bone marrow is too oily or fatty to enjoy; I wouldn't recommend starting with this heavy appetizer unless you're curious. While I'm a big fan of venturing beyond the standard fare, Standard's unstandard fare, mostly in the nature of the food itself rather than chef's skill, didn't appeal to my tastes.

Eastern Standard offers a variety of entrees and daily specials ranging from \$18-\$27. Drop by on Saturday or Sunday, and you'll have Beef Wellington (\$27) and a Suckling Pig (\$22) available to you. My top choice for the regularly offered entrees is the pork chop (\$20). The most flavorful item on the menu, it's served with riesling braised cabbage and mustard sauce and is cooked to tenderness, remaining moist throughout. The roasted king salmon (\$20) and grey sole (\$22) are decent fish choices, while the bone-in rib eye was also ok. The lamb chop was moist throughout and seemingly cooked well but lacked proper seasoning.

For dessert (all \$7), the choice is clear — unless you are freezing to death, order the house-made sorbet, which captures the essence of the fruit from which it's made. The sorbet is pleasantly light, and the precision of the flavor is immediately obvious. This is *the* sorbet in Boston/Cambridge to have and is a dessert standout rare to find anywhere.

If it's too cold, any of the other four dessert are good choices: Boston Cream Pie, Chocolate Mousse, Berry Tart, and Crème Brûlée. They're good choices for their price, but not a standout among others I've had.

In a nutshell: Eastern Standard's impressive decor will add a classic twist to a date. To avoid sticking out, I'd recommend a collar for guys; most of the crowd is well dressed. The bar area is open until at least midnight, closing progressively later as the weekend approaches. The kitchen follows the same progression, closing at 11 p.m. and creeping to midnight later in the week.

This restaurant is crowded on the weekends, so I'd recommend calling two to three days in advance for a Friday or weekend date. On cool nights, sit outside, mix good conversation and a bottle of wine, and watch the Sox fans march to or from the game.

The restaurant, as its name suggests, reliably brings a mostly standard menu at standard cost. Standouts are the calamari to start, the pork chop as an entrée, and definitely the sorbet for dessert. The decor itself is also a standout, and the combination of setting and food make Eastern Standard a good option for a date.

Eastern Standard, by my measure, is ironically simply "standard." Standard food at a standard price, with the added benefit of a unique setting and outstanding fruit-faithful sorbet make Eastern Standard a break-even restaurant for dollar-to-value.



Whedon Takes TV's 'Firefly' To Big Screen in 'Serenity'

Serenity, from Page 5

tic character creation, and his eight main characters have ample time to bring out their personalities. By the end of the movie, if you've paid attention, you will know everybody's name and whom they want to sleep with (if anyone). Captain Mal's crew, Zoe (Gina Torres), Wash (Alan Tudyk), Jayne (Adam Baldwin), and Kaylee (Jewel Staite) all perform as they did on the television show, and each has a fancy one-liner or two. Serenity runs as it should, with everyone a little too good at their jobs and not-quite-predictably evading danger.

The two who drive the plot, however, receive the most attention: siblings Simon Tam (Sean Maher) and River Tam (Summer Glau). Simon, a successful doctor, risked everything to rescue his psychic and exceptionally powerful sister from the Alliance, the galactic parliamentary coalition. Since River can feel terrible events happening all around the universe and has been partially trained (via electroshocks to her brain) as a military operative, she always portrays either incredible clarity or complete confusion. The brother-sister dynamic is shakily presented, but it's there: Whedon's unique touch is the depiction of honest relationships without unrealistic gender bias or Hollywood convention.

Mal's struggle also flies in the face of what is normally accepted in this kind of story — he's not sure whether he's doing the right thing, and he's not even sure he cares about doing the right thing. Heroes, Zoe remarks at one point,

are often those who just get other people killed. Whedon has a hopeful message, though; Mal finds, as most people do, that he is driven by love to do what he feels is right. Life is often confusing, even in an action movie — but in a Joss action movie, you can leave knowing you've gotten a few pointers.

The villain in this movie is *scary*. If you last saw sweet-faced Chiwetel Ejiofor in a tame summer movie, you will not be expecting his chilling performance as the Operative, whose job is to destroy River Tam and her brother before they can disseminate information about the Alliance's secret tasks. Those secrets manifest themselves in a devastating and disturbing scene on a lost planet, where a transmission from the past appears to the Serenity crew, and they are forced to watch a holograph of a woman being eaten alive. While Joss's previous projects have treated nightmares like torture and vampires with a bit of a wink, in "Serenity," they are truly sobering.

Whedon doesn't offer solutions to the nastiness of the world, but he presents the lighter side of life and gives both comfort and thought-provoking questions. And explosions — lots and lots of fiery explosions.

Don't see "Serenity" for the costumes (though they're gorgeous), the cinematography (though it's decent), or the special effects (though they're both original and cool). See it because you'll experience adventure, laughter, thoughtfulness, intelligence, and damn good storytelling.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Joss Whedon brings the cancelled television show "Firefly" to the big screen in "Serenity."

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Excellent  
★★★: Good  
★★: Average  
★: Poor

★★1/2 40-Year Old Virgin, The

Andy Stitzer (Steve Carell) is the consummate dork who collects action figures, bikes to work, and stays far away from women. Without any friends, there's no one to tell him what he's missing. The generally artificial scenes and outrageously unbelievable characters are not noticed much because the movie makes you laugh so hard that you can barely put more popcorn in your mouth. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★ A History of Violence

After killing two men in his diner out of self defense, Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen) is forced to confront his past by the mob. There is a moment during the film when you wonder what it's all about, not because it's too deep, but because too many things are happening and nothing seems to come together. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★1/2 Aristocrats, The

This film features Hollywood notables delivering and analyzing what co-creator Penn Jillette touts as "the dirtiest joke you will ever hear." And with the rabid incest, bestiality, child rape, and bodily fluids (and solids), hopefully it is. The joke — too vulgar to repeat in any form here — isn't even funny. (Kathy Lin)

★★ Broken Flowers

Bill Murray is Don Johnston, a modern-day Don Juan who one day discovers an unsigned letter in a pink envelope — one of his relationships 20 years ago apparently yielded a son. He embarks on a cross-country journey to visit four former girlfriends and hopefully find the anonymous mother. The lack of a convincing plot, and more importantly, a point, means that those two hours of your life are better spent elsewhere. (Kelley Rivoire)

★★★★1/2 Brothers Grimm, The

The movie follows the adventures of the brothers Grimm, the fairy tale authors who go around French-occupied Germany at the end of the 18th century ridding villages of evil that their buddies are cooking up. But their adventures take a turn for the worse when the French government summons them to investigate what appears to be genuine witchcraft evilness. Humor, adventure, and crazy violence ensue. (Bill Andrews)

★★★★1/2 Constant Gardener, The

Though this may appear to be a film about the drug companies taking advantage of Africans, it is in fact a story about what a man will do for a woman he loves with every ounce of his strength. If you want a smart film that's not only well done but is also pleasing to watch, this is a must. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★★1/2 Corpse Bride

Tim Burton's latest feature is a dark-hued romantic fantasy, which combines an unconventional story with subtle satire and unusual

cinematographic techniques to deliver a truly delectable treat. Factor in the vocal talents of a remarkable cast and Danny Elfman's sparkling music, and there you have a masterpiece you won't regret watching over and over again. (Bogdan Fedeles)

★★★★ March of the Penguins

Capturing a range of stunning images from the lighthearted, with penguins coasting along the ice on their bellies, to the majestic, with a seemingly infinite line of penguins marching to the sea and jagged walls of ice, this documentary surely pulls at the heartstrings of all who watch it. (Kelley Rivoire)

★★★★1/2 Murderball

Murderball, the original name of quadriplegic rugby, was invented in Canada in 1979. The movie excels most when it relates the lives of its players to ours through familiar activities. Moreover, it gracefully portrays the impact of the sport on the journey quadriplegics travel, from coping with their condition to parenthood. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★ Must Love Dogs

John Cusack and Diane Lane, both recently divorced, predictably fall in love after a bumpy initial relationship, the result of meddling on the internet by pushy friends and family. My showing was attended primarily by groups of old ladies and slightly awkward, lonely-looking men, and unless you fall into one of those groups, I'd suggest skipping this one. (Kathy Lin)

★★★ Proof

Hollywood once again successfully brings together mathematical genius and mental illness. Katie (Gwyneth Paltrow) struggles with finding her place in the world and her own emergence as a mathematician. For the first time on the big screen is a woman whose experiences highlight important challenges facing women in math and science today. (Kathy Lin)

★★1/2 Red Eye

It's 2 a.m., your flight's been delayed three times already, and you have a fear of flying to boot. And on top of that, the cute guy you were flirting with before boarding turns out to be a sadistic freak working for terrorists. If you can relate, then perhaps "Red Eye" is the right movie for you. Even though it is a thriller, and not the traditional horror we've come to know and love from director Wes Craven, there are still many scares and suspenseful moments. (Bill Andrews)

★★1/2 Wedding Crashers

Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn never seem to do their real jobs as divorce mediators; instead they crash weddings on a regular basis (going to weddings uninvited, drinking free booze, and meeting, then sleeping with girls there). If you're looking for a lighthearted summer comedy with some stupid humor and superfluous sex, then "Wedding Crashers" may be the perfect movie for you. (Yong-yi Zhu)

## Trio

New animations added to intro page: [ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE](http://ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE)

by Emezie Okorafor



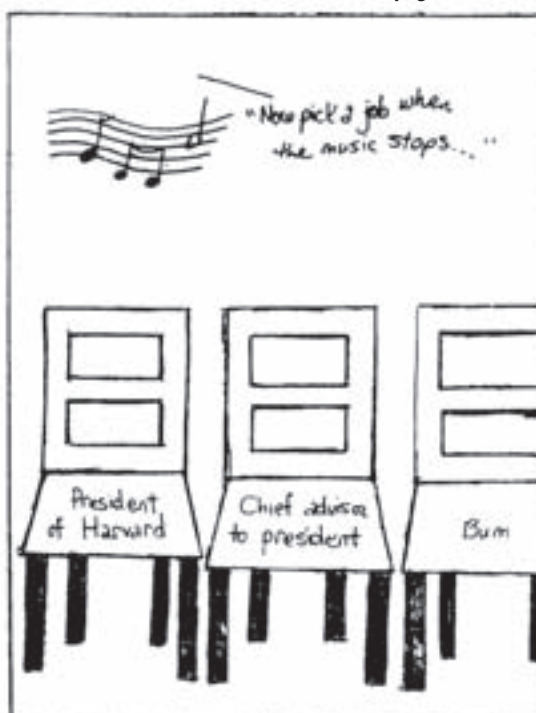
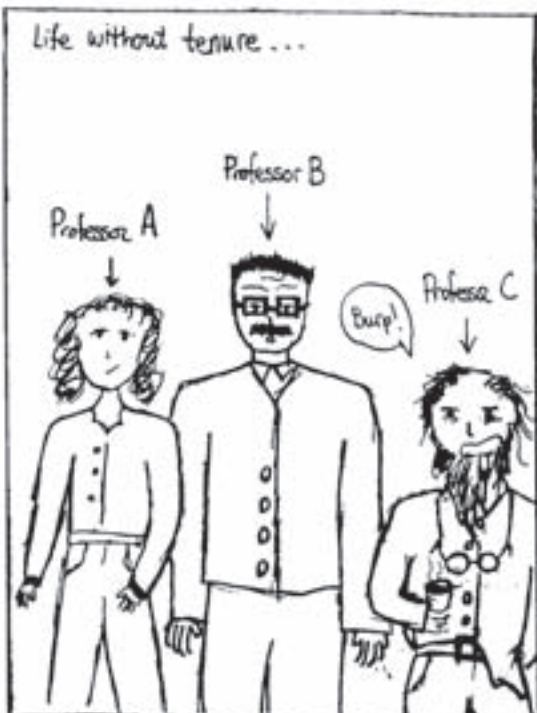
## Deviants from the Norm

by A.K. Turza

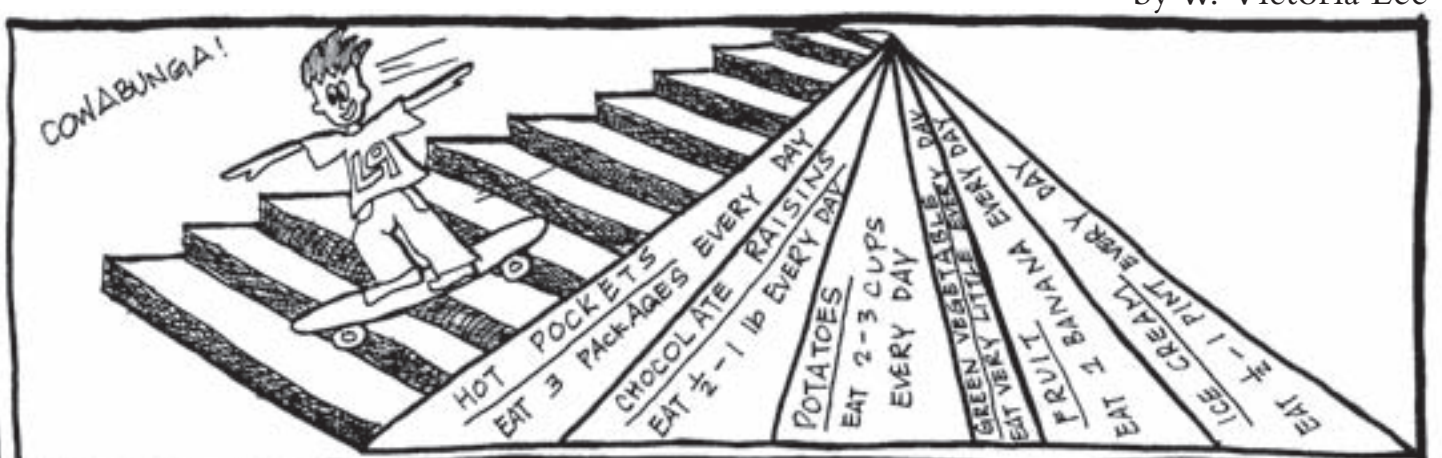


## More Cowbell

by Jia Lou

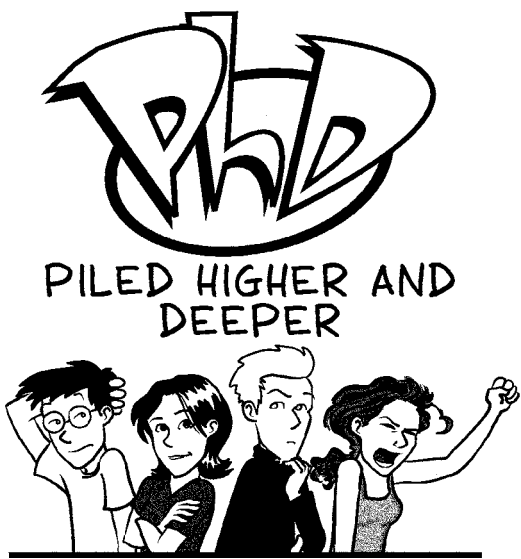


by W. Victoria Lee



Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta



Crossword  
Puzzle  
Solution, page 12

Bonus Crossword  
Solution, page 17

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

# Media Lab Puts New 100 Dollar Laptops on Display

## Lab Expects Many Orders for Cheap, Sturdy Computers From Governments of Developing Countries

By Hiawatha Bray  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Nicholas Negroponte, cofounder of the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, showed off a model of a \$100 hand-crank laptop Wednesday that he designed as an educational device for children in remote areas.

But a cheap computer that does not rely on batteries or electricity could also serve as a life-saving communications tool following a natural disaster. Just as New Orleans city officials used an Internet telephone system to call for aid during Hurricane Katrina, emergency workers might come to rely on wind-up laptops equipped with wireless Internet access.

"We have been asked directly about this," said Negroponte, who will show a model of the device yesterday at an MIT technology conference. "Remember that the military used wind-up radios for years."

While the idea may sound promising for post-disaster communications, it still has serious drawbacks. A wireless laptop, however inexpensive, would be of no use unless it was within range of a functioning Internet

base station. Such stations might well be destroyed in a hurricane, earthquake, or terrorist attack, rendering the laptop useless.

In any case, the plan is to pass them out by the millions to boost school performance in developing countries, and in Massachusetts. The concept has already been embraced by government officials in Brazil, Thailand, and Egypt. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney has jumped onto the bandwagon, with a plan to issue the laptops to the state's schoolchildren.

Negroponte plans to have working prototypes of his machine by early next year, with mass production to begin by the final quarter of 2006. There are no plans to make the laptops available to general consumers.

The idea was born in 1999, when Negroponte and his wife set up two schools in Cambodia and equipped all of the students with laptops. He was so impressed with the results that he now wants to create a laptop cheap enough to provide one to every poor child in the world.

"The computer provides the only way to give students a real foundation in 21st-century skills," Negroponte

said.

In January, Negroponte joined Media Lab colleagues Joe Jacobson and Seymour Papert to create One Laptop Per Child, a nonprofit organization to

design and distribute the ultra-cheap computers. The group is working with chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif., and Jacobson's own company, E Ink Corp. of Cambridge, which makes "electronic ink" display screens. These displays consume a fraction of the power used by today's laptop screens, and could be made for as little as \$30 each, far cheaper than current laptop screens.

The One Laptop Per Child computer can also keep costs down by using flash memory chips in place of a mechanical hard drive, and a low-powered processor to deliver enough performance for basic computing tasks and Internet access. The laptop will connect to the online world with a wireless connection. It will also

include "mesh networking" technology that lets each laptop communicate automatically with any other machine in range. If just one laptop has direct access to the Net, others

can easily connect to it and share a single online connection. The entire package, although it can be powered

by standard electric current, runs on a plentiful power source — human muscles turning a crank mounted on the side of the computer.

"Our interest is really in Third World development," Papert said. "I believe that it's essential to solving the problems of poverty, violence, and environment, to have better education."

Papert said that Thailand's prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, Brazil's president, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, and Egypt's ministry of education have all expressed interest in the plan.

But Romney believes many Massachusetts students could also ben-

efit from the laptops. He said he was already considering a plan to buy laptops for each of the state's middle and high school students at \$500 apiece. But then Secretary of Administration and Finance Eric Kriss told him about MIT's \$100 laptop plan. After meeting in July with Media Lab officials, Romney concluded that the lower price tag of their proposed computer could enable the state to roll out the program more quickly.

Last week, as part of an education reform plan, Romney proposed to spend \$54 million to buy one of Negroponte's laptops for every student. The first three grades would get computers during fiscal year 2007, while students in the other three grades would get them the following year. The computers would be gifts, so that students could keep them after graduating.

Romney admitted that the case for student laptops remains inconclusive. But he added that "the evidence so far is positive."

For Negroponte, Massachusetts' decision to adopt his laptops is a valuable endorsement of the One Laptop Per Child campaign.

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Kothari mounted the shingles to plastic temporary fencing

Photography by Stephanie Lee.

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# MIT Students Assist New Charter School With Math Program

Charter School, from Page 1

receive more personal attention — conveniently located near major universities such as MIT and Harvard.

“We started [CCSC] because we wanted a small school with a strong atmosphere that could provide connections to the adult world community,” Evans said.

The school is a hybrid of High Tech High, a charter school in San Diego with which Riordan is involved, and Frances Parker Charter in Harvard, MA, according to Stellman. Six members of the faculty, as well as Stellman and Evans themselves, have visited the charter schools to see how they run and how the students and faculty interact.

“From my perspective, I have always been interested in having a school that would combine the hands-on methodology of vocational education with rigorous academics,” Riordan said. “MIT is the foremost institution in the world doing that.”

### MIT connects with charter

CCSC has forged a relationship with many MIT and Harvard programs, including iMath, SciPro, and the Harvard Cancer Awareness Society. There are also plans to work with local companies like Genzyme, Biogen, IDEC, and the YMCA. According to iMath coordinator Oliver Khamky '08, in two weeks, about five MIT students will begin making weekly trips to CCSC to introduce the students to algebra using interactive computer programs.

Two CCSC school board members, Bakhtiar J. Mikhah of the Media Lab and Kim R. Beamon, associate dean of the Office for Minority Education, are affiliated with MIT.

Bakhtiar has been raising awareness about the school among his colleagues here at MIT. His plans include developing a course offered through the Media Lab that can incorporate technology and new research into the CCSC curriculum.

“I am very pleased with how many people on campus are aware of the new school,” Mikhah said. “It is great fun for me and fun for the kids, too.”

Another program that has just

begun is Homework Center which meets on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday after school for any interested students. CCSC is looking for student volunteers from MIT.

“We need serious help staffing the Homework Center after school,” Stellman said. “An hour from 3 to 5:30 would be absolutely enormous.”

### Setting up the school

After almost three years of work in acquiring the charter, gaining support from the community, and setting up the school, CCSC opened on Aug. 31 to 180 Cambridge and Boston-area students in grades seven through nine. The school received more than 440 applications for its 180 slots, Evans said. Blind lotteries were conducted through the end of August.

“It appears that we have a very diverse population of students that mirrors the diversity of [Cambridge's main] high school,” Riordan said.

The ultimate goal is to create a seventh through twelfth grade charter high school with about 360 students. A new seventh grade class will be added each year, along with new faculty. There are currently 15 teachers and 10 administrators.

Students take three classes: humanities, math/science, and an elective. Seventh and eighth graders take classes together, and ninth graders have a separate curriculum.

CCSC had help getting started from local businesses, including Product Genesis, the company that previously occupied the building, and furniture companies that donated supplies.

### Personalization for everyone

The school is based on three design principles: personalization, adult world connections, and the idea of a common intellectual mission.

Personalization is probably the most apparent of the three. “The idea of personalization is that somebody needs to know each kid,” Stellman said.

For a CCSC student, each day begins with an Advisory. A small group of about 10 students along with a faculty member learn the “Word of the Day” and discuss their “Smart Goals,” which the faculty and administration make sure they complete. The Advisory on Mondays, in which students learn about community building and create personalized learning plans, is especially long.

The faculty and administration have visited the homes of 90 percent of the students and make it a habit to call home just to check in.

“Some kids live in large houses on Brattle Street,” Stellman said, “but we’ve also been to all of the projects in Cambridge.”

Part of having a common intellectual mission is to teach students how to collaborate to solve problems. “The teachers talk to each other, plan and work together, and the kids see that,” Stellman said.

As for adult world connections, each student will be required to complete an internship for graduation, as well as interact with other outside groups.

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### Solution to Crossword

from page 9

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# Graffiti Was Recorded for Use In Possible Future Prosecution

Vandalism, from Page 1

basement bathroom are difficult to handle, Bruni said, because of the intellectual style they adopt. The separation between free speech and hate speech is a fine line, he said.

Nadeau said the writing struck him because it was not “derivative and puerile,” but seemed to want to make an intellectual statement.

The graffiti has not been categorized as hate speech, DiFava said, although he said he felt these incidents differed from free speech because a person desiring an intellectual discussion would use more important venues than bathroom walls to promote his or her opinions.

The previous incidents in the Walker basement bathroom were documented with pictures of the writings and statements from people in or around the bathroom.

Following Nadeau’s discovery of the most recent incident, pictures were taken of the writings and were added to documentation of similar incidents. Anti-gay slogans in other locations around campus are in the process of being documented right now, said Abigail Francis, project coordinator of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Services, Resources, and Outreach.

DiFava said that there is a zero

tolerance policy for such writings, and they are removed as soon as possible after documentation.

Photographs, statements, and surveillance can be compiled into evidence, DiFava said, which can be brought to court. It would be up to the court to decide whether charges could be pressed.

He said that there is such a thing as a graffiti fingerprint, where writings are compared by an expert, allowing an offender to be linked to other incidents.

### Responses to incidents planned

Francis said that according to MIT’s non-discrimination policy, everyone has the right to work and feel welcomed in their own space. The writings’ close proximity to the Rainbow Lounge, she said, may cause people to feel threatened in a space reserved to make them feel welcome.

The MIT police have been helpful, she said, by increasing their patrols of Walker. The writings have not appeared for a week, something she believes is because of the increased police presence.

Thomas E. Robinson, program coordinator for Student Life Programs, said that last year he reported similar incidents to the campus police. At that time, a security system guarding

against intruders was installed in the Rainbow Lounge. Robinson was an interim director of the LBGT office last year.

Francis said that a Hate Speech and Harassment Subcommittee of the LBGT Issues group will be formed to find an approach to hate crimes. This group will also be concerned with hate speech against race and gender.

Bruni said that the group should address what can be done in response to hate speech, both by the community and by the police. The distinction between hate speech and free speech should be examined, and contacting more administrators about these incidents should be a goal, he said.

A diversity speakers bureau may be formed in response to these incidents, Francis said. Because the incidents are not common, the focus should be kept on positive messages, she said.

The LBGT office now makes the LBGT “You are welcome here” stickers available to students. Any defaced or damaged stickers should be reported, Francis said, as part of a new effort to keep track of discriminatory behavior.

The writings are a “real act of cowardice,” DiFava said, but the good news is that the “community as a whole finds this very, very distasteful ... and is being extremely vigilant.”

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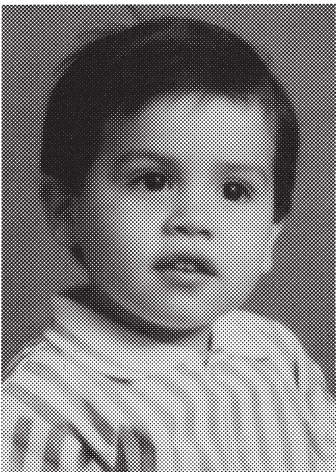
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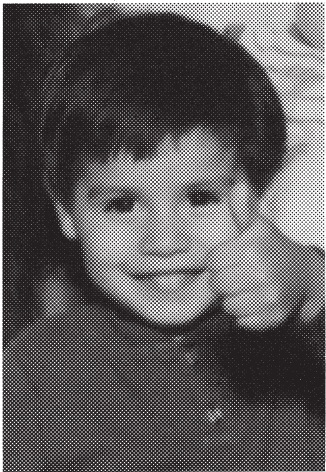
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1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992

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# At BU, Gap Between Salaries for Female, Male Profs Widening

By Marcella Bombardieri

THE BOSTON GLOBE

The salaries of female professors at Boston University have fallen farther behind those of their male colleagues in the last dozen years. The

salary gap for male and female full professors at BU is now twice the national average for private research universities, according to

data released to BU professors by the faculty council Wednesday.

Female full professors are earning 84 percent as much as their male peers this year, compared with 88 percent in 1992.

Among full professors, the highest faculty rank, the gender gap was \$19,800 this year, with men making an average of \$119,900, and women, \$100,100. The difference between BU's gender gap and those of other

schools is more modest at the lower ranks.

The university's salaries are also low, overall, compared with peer institutions.

The average salary for full professors at New England universities is 15 percent more than at BU.

The faculty council report was

*"What's most troubling is the gender differences, which beg the question of whether we have a fair distribution of resources inside the institution."*

—Robert A. Brown

Salaries, Page 17

## Police Log

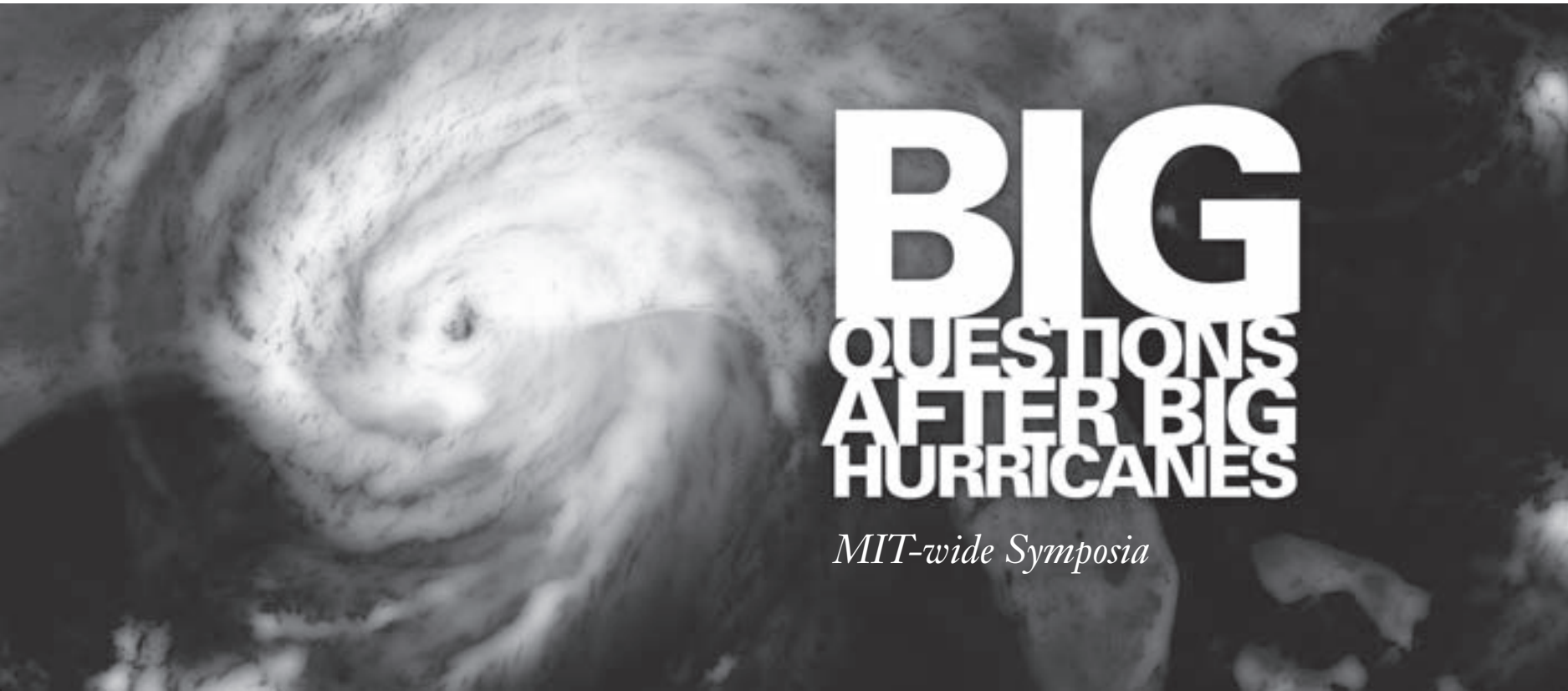
The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Sept. 22 and Sept. 25. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, medical shuttles, or isolated incidents of theft.

**Sept. 22:** Bldg. 24 (60 Rear Vassar St.), Richard A. Wilson (9 Virginia St. Apt. 2) arrested for trespassing. E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), report of a parked car being hit in the vehicle lot. Bldg. 36 (50 Vassar St.), homeless person sleeping in ladies' room; trespass warning issued.

**Sept. 23:** Z Center (100 Vassar St.), larceny of Medtronic defibrillator and pacemaker, value \$25,000.

**Sept. 25:** Bldg. 10 (122 Memorial Dr.), banner on dome facing Killian court. Baker (362 Memorial Dr.), a piece of furniture thrown off roof. Kappa Sigma (407 Memorial Dr.), malicious destruction to motor vehicle; statements taken; incident under investigation.

—Compiled by Marjan Rafat and Tai DaCosta with assistance from other members of the MIT Crime Club.



## How Can We Improve Disaster Response?

**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Explaining Federal Responses to Katrina**

Professor Kenneth A. Oye, Political Science and Engineering Systems

**Recurring Problems With Disaster Response Systems**

Professor Richard C. Larson, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering Systems

**Resilient Enterprises**

Professor Yossi Sheffi, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering Systems,  
Director of the Center for Transportation and Logistics

Moderated by Daniel E. Hastings, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and  
Engineering Systems, Director of the Engineering Systems Division

Friday,  
September 30, 2005  
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Kirsch Auditorium  
Ray and Maria Stata Center

For information on other events:

<http://web.mit.edu/katrina/symposia/>







# Combat tested.

*[join@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@the-tech.mit.edu)*

**W20-483, x3-1541**

# Drops in Gov't Funds A Challenge for MIT

Crowley, from Page 1

made by MIT and Lincoln Laboratory,” Crowley wrote in an e-mail. “The cumulative contributions made over the past half century have made MIT the gold standard in the art and practice of ‘getting it right.’”

Vest “put a Washington face on MIT and it opened doors to policy makers across government,” Crowley wrote. “We did not rattle a tin cup, but instead asked how MIT might help. It was refreshing to many — and most welcome. MIT’s campus-based team of administrators and faculty contributed to more effective policy formulation directly and through many leading national organizations and associations.”

Crowley also cited Vest’s creation of the MIT Congressional Staff Seminar on Science and Technology as “a significant contribution now emulated by others” that is “strengthening and deepening the science understanding of staff.”

“Jack has provided extraordinary service, not only to MIT but to all of the higher education community,” Hockfield said in her announcement of his retirement, according to the MIT News Office. “His skillful and tireless work advancing national policies that promote education and research, to build strength in science, engineering and technology have benefited all of us. I am very grateful to him for having deferred his retirement plans and continuing on in this important role during my first year in office.”

The Washington Office aims to help MIT influence federal policies in science, engineering research, and education and to facilitate consultation between MIT faculty and the government on scientific policy issues. Legislative initiatives led by the Washington Office include homeland security policies in the wake of September 11, such as restrictions for international students.

“9-11 drew a bright line,” Crowley wrote. “The last four years have seen a new agenda related to homeland security that has engaged many on campus in issues related to visa policy, openness of universities, export controls and control of hazardous substances and agents.”

“Post- Iraq and Katrina, federal budgets seem poised to become even more constrained,” he wrote. “Making the case for the future, for long-term investment in an open enter-

prise of research and education and the need to remain the destination of choice for the world’s best minds are three issues that will merit continuing close and intensive engagement with government and the rest of the university community.”

Hockfield, who travels to Washington at least once a month to advocate science research and education, characterized the outlook for government funding for research and development as “nothing less than dismal” at last week’s faculty meeting. “While there is tremendous interest and understanding of the important role that research and funding of research plays in maintaining America’s innovation economy, there is not much optimism that things are going to get better any time soon,” she said at the meeting.

Vest said to the News Office, “I count among my greatest privileges having worked closely with Jack Crowley, and having learned from him how to pursue worthy goals in Washington. He is without peer among university federal relations officers, and is revered by his colleagues across the country. He brought to his work with MIT on behalf of the federal-university partnership a strong set of fundamental values and understanding of faculty goals as well as a unique working knowledge of government processes.”

Crowley was vice president of the Association of American Universities before coming to MIT.

“Completing 14 years with Chuck” tops his achievements in the position, Crowley wrote in an e-mail. “I didn’t know I had the stamina.”

# BU President Brown Pledges More Funding for Professors’ Salaries

Salaries, from Page 14

the first opportunity since 1993 for BU professors to compare the salaries of men and women, and the administration’s decision to allow its distribution marked an important change in policy. Under John Silber and Jon Westling’s presidencies, Boston University departed from the practice of most other major schools by declining to report salary data to the American Association of University Professors, which compiles annual statistics.

But interim president Aram V. Chobanian decided to resume reporting to the AAUP, and the administration also provided the faculty council with data. BU’s new president, Robert A. Brown, who has been in office only a month, said he would work to make BU salaries more competitive, but especially to redress the inequalities brought to light.

“We want to be an institution where all faculty believe they will be fairly compensated as close to market conditions as the university can afford,” he said. “But what’s most troubling is the gender differences, which beg the question of whether we have a fair distribution of resources inside the institution.”

BU professors have long known that they were paid less than their colleagues at similar institutions, and especially resented it because BU has a tradition of very high executive compensation. Silber and Westling were among the highest paid university presidents in America during their tenures, and with a salary of \$650,000, Brown, too, is near the top.

Silber, an outspoken social conservative who led the university for most of three decades, did not publicly identify gender equality as an important priority in university management. In a 1990 sex discrimination case that a professor successfully brought against BU, faculty members testified that Silber called the English department “a damn matriarchy.”

“There hasn’t been an open and clear discussion of our salaries” in previous BU administrations, said Roscoe Giles, chair of the faculty council, who added that the issue of gender equity in pay was “not a high priority to address in the past.”

Silber did not return a call Wednesday, and Westling said he could not comment on the report because he had not yet had a chance to read it.

The faculty council sent a 35-page report to BU professors Wednesday; the *Globe* obtained a copy. It was based on comparisons of numbers provided by the university and AAUP data.

The analysis slightly inflates BU salaries, because BU’s numbers represent raises given in January 2005, while the AAUP data represented salaries for the entire 2004–2005 academic year. The analysis also did not examine benefits.

On average, professors at private doctoral universities in New England earn 15 percent more than at

BU at the full professor rank, 5 percent more at the associate rank, and 8 percent more at the assistant professor rank, according to the report. The BU salaries averaged \$116,400 for full professors, \$80,200 for associate professors, and \$68,600 for assistant professors.

The average female salary at BU was 84 percent of male salaries for full professors, 94 percent for associate professors, and 89 percent for assistant professors.

But the gap varied widely between BU’s different colleges. In the College of Arts and Sciences, women fared worse: their salaries were 78 percent, 92 percent, and 84 percent of men’s at the three faculty ranks, respectively.

The data are not weighted to reflect how many years professors have been teaching, but the men and women within each rank are of roughly the same age, with roughly the same number of years of service at BU and in their particular rank. At the full professor rank, the men were only about two years older on average, and had spent about two more years at BU.

The gender gap between men and women at the associate rank is about 7 percent both at BU and nationally. But BU’s 13 percent gender gap at the assistant level is higher than the 11 percent nationally and the 7 percent among private research universities in New England.

“There hasn’t been an open and clear discussion of our salaries.”  
—Roscoe Giles

## GUEST SPEAKER COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES 2006

The Commencement Committee invites suggestions for the guest speaker at MIT’s commencement exercises on Friday 9 June from all members of the community. The commencement speaker should be one who will be able to address topics of relevance to MIT.

Suggestions may be submitted to Kimberley Wu – President of the Class of 2006 (kim\_wu@mit.edu), Emilie Slaby – President of the Graduate Student Council (slaby@mit.edu), Gayle Gallagher – Executive Officer for Commencement (gayle@mit.edu), and Eric Grimson – Chairman of the Commencement Committee (welg@csail.mit.edu).

Suggestions must be received by Friday 7 October.

Following a review, the Committee will submit a list to President Hockfield for consideration. The list will not be made public. The President has the responsibility and authority for selecting and inviting a guest speaker for the commencement exercises.

Solution to  
Bonus Crossword  
from page 9

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | V | I | A | T | E |   | L | E | G | A | T | O | R |   |
| A | L | A | D | D | I | N |   | A | S | I | N | I | N | E |   |
| M | A | R | L | E | N | E |   | D | A | N | K | E | S | T |   |
| A | S | S | E | S |   | R | I | D |   | A | L | D | E | R |   |
| S | T | I | R |   | A | G | N | E | S |   | E | Y | R | E |   |
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| O | D | D | S | A | R | E |   | E | E | R | I | E | S | T |   |
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# Tales of Blackjack Success Captivate MIT Audience

Vegas, from Page 1

to explain how he did it. The person he originally told was none other than Ben Mezrich, a Harvard graduate who had already written “Bringing Down the House.” That book, which remained on *The New York Times* Bestseller List for 59 weeks, revealed the story of another blackjack team from MIT that made millions. The methods Dukach and his team of three other students used, though, were more advanced, invented from within, and shared with fewer than a dozen people. Mezrich’s newest book, “Busting Vegas,” describes Dukach’s sensational tale with as much brilliance as his first Vegas novel.

And so Mezrich and Dukach lounged in maroon director-style canvas chairs, emblazoned with stars and their names, ready to talk to a lecture-hall audience of mostly MIT alumni, but also students. During the talk, Mezrich probed Dukach for interesting anecdotes, many of which ended up in “Busting Vegas.” Dukach described the myriad of characters he invented to infiltrate various casinos; indeed the inside cover of the book is tiled with the images of countless fake IDs used to gain entry to high stakes tables.

When the floor was opened for questions, a member of the audience noted that the characters in “Bringing Down the House” were investigated by the IRS and asked Dukach about his financial actions, whether legal or illegal. Dukach said, “We set up corporations and paid taxes.” Later, he revealed, “We made about five million dollars in about two years.” He

stored actual winnings on campus in an enormous iron safe, he said, that had been at MIT for decades. Dukach later moved the safe away from MIT and permanently installed it in his home.

Dukach also explained his dislike of casinos. He disapproves of the facade that casinos create by giving the impression that the casual card player will walk away a winner — actually, the blackjack player is mathematically disposed to be a loser even if his play is perfect. Casinos now employ even more elaborate tactics to keep people gambling as much as possible; they not only try to keep the gamblers drunk, they also use aromatherapy and other means to ensnare their victims, he said. “It’s like date rape,” Mezrich said, “They get you in there, and you don’t remember what happened.”

In “Busting Vegas,” Mezrich uses multiple points of view and jumps back and forth between the past and the present to create suspense and delay tantalizing facts. The novel opens with Dukach and Cassius, another team member, flying a tired Cessna to Princeton from Atlantic City in the middle of a snowstorm. They crash land the plane, jump from the burning wreckage and then start to run back to the aircraft to retrieve their winnings of \$350,000 in cash, stored in garbage bags during transit. Mezrich waits a while before he reveals what happens next, further captivating the reader with consistent profanity and descriptions of scantily clad women.

One thing Mezrich also does throughout the book is stress the two personas of his characters — on the

one hand, a nerdy MIT student, one of those geniuses on a plane of intelligence above the rest of us at the Institute; and on the other, a bold and slightly reckless gambler living a lifestyle involving vice and debauchery. The story is so sensational, yet rooted enough in the reality of MIT, that the reader is inevitably sucked in. We follow Dukach and his teammates, first around Cambridge and Boston, then to one casino after another, from Vegas to Europe and Monte Carlo.

Over the course of these adventures, Mezrich explains each of the three techniques Dukach used to gain an edge over the house. Rather than using card counting, a long-known method for gaining a slight advantage in blackjack, the techniques involved tracking the whereabouts of a few particular cards. In one method, the player memorizes a sequence of cards in the discard rack; these cards are then re-circulated into the shoe, but shuffled in between other unknown cards. With multiple players

at the same table, these known cards, if tracked correctly, can then be directed to create winning hands or to bust the dealer.

These skills require months or years of practice, says Dukach. Mezrich’s book makes it seem so easy to us, since we all have some understanding of probability distributions. Ultimately, the average MIT student might think himself smart enough to do what Dukach did, but it’s clear to me that this is just the result of delusions of grandeur brought about by visions of endless cash and the attractive lure of high stakes gambling.

This view is brought about in part by Hollywood, with films like “Ocean’s Eleven,” in which gambling is made to seem exotic and sexy. Incidentally, Mezrich’s “Bringing Down the House” is now being turned into a feature film by Kevin Spacey, who will play the MIT professor who trained the blackjack team described in that book. During the talk, Mezrich mentioned the stereo-

typical Hollywood casting process — though most of the actual blackjack team was composed of Asian males, a studio executive involved in the casting process said that most of the film’s actors would be white, with perhaps an Asian female. Even as Asian actors are entering more mainstream films, such as “Better Luck Tomorrow” and the upcoming “Memoirs of a Geisha,” these stereotypes still exist, Mezrich said.

Ultimately, Dukach’s story is one in which math can be extremely profitable. Mezrich described his amazement when he witnessed Dukach employing these techniques in person. And even though most casinos in Vegas and other places now recognize Dukach on the spot and throw him out, he still plays — staying at a South American hotel last week, Dukach casually played, making a few thousand dollars. About his techniques, Dukach said, “It definitely wasn’t wrong. We were taking money away from casinos.”

Call SIPB with questions at x3-7788!

Ask SIPB

Drop by our office in W20-557!

Want to set up e-mail on your personal computer? Or figure out exactly where all those @mit.edu addresses go? In this column, part 2 of 4 of our introductory columns, we cover mail and mailing lists.

Mailing lists at MIT

There are two commonly used types of mailing lists at MIT, Moira lists and Mailman lists. Moira lists can be managed using Athena-based and Web interfaces and can be used to control access to AFS and other moira lists. Mailman lists can be managed using Web interfaces, have web-accessible archives, and support moderation and filtering

Moira

Moira lists, also known as Athena lists, function as mailing lists, serve to provide access to AFS directories, and can also manage other Moira lists. From Athena, an easy way to access Moira lists is using the mailmaint command. To run it, open a terminal window and type:  
athena% mailmaint  
For a non-menu driven interface, you can also use the blanche command. To add yourself to a list, use:  
athena% blanche listname -a username  
To remove yourself from the list, type:  
athena% blanche listname -d username  
Or to get the list of members on a list, type:  
athena% blanche listname  
From any non-Athena computer, you can add yourself to lists, remove yourself from lists, and get list information, by getting MIT Certificates and opening your Web browser to <http://web.mit.edu/moira/>. Alternatively, you can download an SSH program, connect to Athena, and run mailmaint from there.  
For more information on manipulating Moira lists, see the Nov. 22, 2002 Ask SIPB column at <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/2002columns/2002-11-22-mailing-lists/>.

Mailman

Mailman lists offer an alternative to Moira lists. Though they can't be used to control access to AFS directories, or manage Moira lists, they do support moderation and filtering. To add yourself to or remove yourself from a Mailman list, you can visit <http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/listname> (replacing listname with the name of the Mailman list).  
If you're not sure whether a list is a Mailman list, you can get the list of members. For example:  
athena% blanche reuse  
reuse@mailman.mit.edu  
From this, you can tell that reuse@mailman.mit.edu is the only member of the list reuse, and that to subscribe to this list, you should go to <http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/reuse>.

Question:

I signed up for a bunch of mailing lists at Activities Midway. Help!

Answer:

If you're getting too much e-mail, it's easy to take yourself off of most mailing lists. For most Moira and Mailman lists, you can use the methods mentioned above to take yourself off the lists. (It can take up to four hours to stop receiving mail from Moira lists.) If for some reason, you get an error message when trying to take yourself off a list, you should try to contact the list owners. If the listname is example, then you should try to send mail to owner-example or example-request. Sending mail to a mailing list should generally never be done, as most of the people on a list won't be able to remove you from the list. As a last resort, you might want to ask OLC, [olc@mit.edu](mailto:olc@mit.edu), if you're having trouble removing yourself from a list.

Question:

How do I read my mail on Athena?

Answer:

Athena has many programs you can use to read mail. The simplest program to use is Evolution. You can start it by clicking the "Mail" icon in the

GNOME panel, or typing  
athena% evolution &  
The other recommended and officially supported program to read mail on Athena is Pine. Unlike Evolution, Pine is a text-based program, so you can even run it on one of the dialups. You can start Pine by typing  
athena% pine  
When you start Pine for the first time, you will get a message asking whether you want to run Athena or SIPB Pine. We strongly recommend that you use Athena Pine, as you are less prone to run into problems or unexpected behavior.  
Question:

How do I read mail from non-Athena machines?

MIT supports two mail protocols: IMAP over SSL, and Kerberized POP. On Windows and Macintosh machines, the mail program Eudora, which can be obtained from <http://web.mit.edu/software/>, supports either. With most other mail programs, such as Mozilla, Outlook Express, Apple Mail, and Pine, you can use IMAP over SSL.  
To setup e-mail in any program that is not already configured to do so, you will need the following settings:  
Outgoing mail server: outgoing.mit.edu, SSL (port 465 or 587) or TLS (port 587) if your software supports it  
Incoming mail server: poXX.MIT.EDU (where XX is a number)  
You can find your incoming mail server by typing:  
athena% hesinfo \$USER pobox  
at the Athena prompt.  
In general, we recommend that you use IMAP, as it stores your mail on the mail server, and allows you to read your mail anywhere. With POP, your mail is downloaded onto your computer and deleted from the server. You can find more about the difference in these protocols in our previous mail column at <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/2002columns/2002-11-08-email/>.  
Note that there are no user-accessible backups of your mail, so you may want to back up your mail from time to time. You can do so with the following:  
athena% add outland; imapback directory-to-backup-to  
Alternately, MIT has an IMAP Webmail service, which you can visit at <http://webmail.mit.edu/>.  
Webmail is a lot slower than connecting to your mail server directly with one of the mail clients mentioned above and lacks many features available in other mail clients. While it is useful to use when you are not using Athena and not using your machine, we recommend that for daily use you use an IMAP mail client, such as Pine, Evolution, Mozilla, or one of the other clients mentioned above.  
Question:

Does MIT offer spam screening?

Answer:

MIT uses SpamAssassin, a configurable mail filter that allows users to control junk (spam) mail they receive. If you are using an IMAP mail client, all messages marked as spam can be filtered into a separate folder automatically. If your account was created this year, it is automatically enabled; otherwise, simply create a new folder in your INBOX named Spamscreen.  
The filter is not perfect, so you should do at least a cursory check of your suspected spam before deleting it; by default, spam more than three weeks old is automatically purged. For information on configuring SpamAssassin's settings, or enabling spam filtering with non-IMAP mail clients, see the IS&T Spam Screening web page at <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/nospam/>.  
To ask us a question, send e-mail to [sipb@mit.edu](mailto:sipb@mit.edu). We'll try to answer quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our Web site: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>.

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## INDIA QUALITY RESTAURANT

Authentic Indian Food

Many new Indian restaurants have opened in the Boston-Cambridge Area. In my opinion, the best of the lot is the India Quality Restaurant near Kenmore Sq. —Bon Appetite

Come and bring your friends to experience the wide variety of authentic North Indian Cuisine and relaxed atmosphere of India Quality Restaurant. Tandoori specialties and breads from Tandoor are also available. Luncheon specials vary from \$4.95–\$6.95 (11:30am–3pm) and Daily Dinner Specials from \$7.95–\$11.95 (5pm–11pm). Special Breads \$1.95–\$3.95 (stuffed with spinach, potatoes, meat, garlic, onion, mint). Great selection of beer and wine.

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Zagat's Survey 2002/03/04/05

# NFL Week 4: Expect the Chiefs to Beat the Eagles

By Yong-yi Zhu  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

A roundup of this week’s NFL play:

**Game of the Week:  
Eagles at Chiefs**

The Chiefs were anemic against the Broncos last week, while the Eagles are without their best kicker. This is a long-shot potential Super Bowlmatch up. If Chiefs RB Priest Holmes and Philly WR Terrell Owens play their best, there should be an offensive explosion. Both teams like to play physical. In the end, the Chiefs will just edge out the Eagles, probably via a missed Philly field goal.

**Upset Special: Chargers at Patriots**

The Patriots won a potential AFC title game match up last week; they play another this week. The Chargers unleashed fury last game, when RB LaDanian Tomlinson was responsible for four of their six touchdowns. San Diego can stack up against New England — if it weren’t for a botched clock, the Steelers would have beaten the Pats. The Patriots are in the middle of their killer schedule, without a real break until their bye week. I smell an upset brewing.

**The Rundown:**

**Bills at Saints:** No Takeo Spikes for the Bills means trouble in their pass defense. The Saints are finally home for the first time this season. This should be an emotional game where Saints QB Aaron Brooks and WR Joe Horn will step up and win big. The Bills are going to spiral down to the bottom of the NFL again.

**Broncos at Jaguars:** Even though Denver played well against the Chiefs last week, QB Jake Plummer passed for only 152 yards. That number will decrease against the Jags, who have the second best passing defense in the league. However, Jags QB Byron Leftwich is hurting as well. The difference will be the Denver running game, which will take over in the second half and down the Jags.

**Texans at Bengals:** One side has an MVP candidate in Bengals QB Calson Palmer. The other has an MLF (most likely fired) candidate in Coach Dom Capers. Palmer already has eight passing touchdowns this season. He will add several more to that total against an ineffective Houston defense. The Bengals will win by at least two TD’s.

**Seahawks at Redskins:** This game will pit the running machine (Hawks) against the immovable wall (Skins). I think Hawks RB Shawn

Alexander will have a better day than people might expect. This one looks to be an upset.

**Vikings at Falcons:** This is another candidate for game of the week, especially now that Vikes QB Daunte Culpepper is playing well. Two mobile quarterbacks face off here for a lot of scrambling. But in the end, Falcons QB Mike Vick will be too much for the Viking defense to handle. Culpepper will have a worse game than last week.

**Packers at Panthers:** If you looked up the word “inconsistent” in the dictionary, you would find a picture of the 2005 Carolina Panthers. Perhaps I’ve lost faith in Packers QB Brett Favre, but I just don’t see the Cheeseheads pulling this one out.

**Colts at Titans:** This battle between the two co-MVPs from two years ago means nothing now. The Titans are on the decline. The Colts continue to excel week in and week out. That the Colts didn’t score often against the Browns last week is a cause for concern, but Manning should have no trouble dismantling the middle-of-the-pack Titan defense.

**49ers at Cardinals:** A battle of horrendous teams — the Niners are the more horrendous.

**Jets at Ravens:** The Jets’ new QB Vinny Testaverde against the

Raven defense is a mistake. At least it’s not Brooks Bollinger. Ravens LB Ray Lewis and RB Jamal Lewis will both have field days.

**Cowboys at Raiders:** The Cowboys barely pulled out their last game against the Niners. Their second game against a California team will be more successful. Cowboys RB Julius Jones can run. The Raiders cannot.

**Rams at Giants:** Two mediocre

teams, one mediocre game. There will be a lot of passing, but in the end, Peyton Jr. will prevail simply because of his poise and confidence in his team. The Giants will win by less than a field goal, though.

**Lions at Buccaneers:** Bucs RB Cadillac Williams for president, Lions QB Joey Harrington for deportation — that’s how far apart those two young players are. The Bucs will win easily.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 30, 2005

Varsity Women’s Volleyball Tufts Tournament  
6 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005

Varsity Rifle vs. Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
8 a.m., MIT Pistol and Rifle Range

Varsity Sailing — Women’s Regis Bowl  
9 a.m., Charles River

Varsity Women’s Soccer vs. Clark University  
11 a.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Varsity Men’s Soccer vs. Lasell College  
1:30 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005

Varsity Sailing — Women’s Regis Bowl  
9 a.m., Charles River



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SPORTS

Women's Volleyball Tops Field at MIT Invitational

By Paul Dill  
TEAM COACH

The women's varsity volleyball team won their own invitational tournament this past weekend as part of what has become a 10 match winning streak. Along the way, the Engineers put together wins against some of the most highly ranked teams in the region, which afterwards earned MIT the number one New England regional ranking out of 73 teams.

During the second day of the MIT invitational, in an all-New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championship bracket, the MIT women's volleyball team emerged with the title after defeating Smith College in the semifinals and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in the finals. Coast Guard advanced to the championship match after posting a 30-20, 32-30, 30-24 victory over Springfield College.

Arlis A. Reynolds '06 won Tournament MVP honors while Caroline D. Jordan '06 was selected to the All-Tournament Team. Reynolds also earned NEWMAC Player of the Week honors for her efforts during the 5-0 week.

The Engineers kicked off the weekend by cruising to a 30-10, 30-21, 30-16 victory over Emmanuel College. Jordan led the way with 13 kills, putting her in the MIT 1000 Kill Club and becoming only the second player at MIT to tally both 1000 kills and digs. She also posted a .667 hitting percentage (18 kills, one error, 18 attempts) as the Engineers hit .406 as a team.

Rose Zhong '08 and Briana J. Stephenson '07 each posted nine kills, while Reynolds paced the defense

with 13 digs. Carrie C. Buchanan '08 was Tech's most prolific scorer, notching four aces on 22 attempts without an error. In two games, Amanda J. Morris '08 contributed in every category, finishing with 26 assists, four digs, two aces, a kill, and a block.

In the second match, MIT defeated last year's regional champions, Williams College, 28-30, 30-23, 30-23, 30-21. Austin Zimmerman '06 led a diverse offensive front, registering 49 assists. Jordan, along with Frances M. Rogoz '08 and Stephenson, reached double-figures in kills. Jordan had a team-high 17 while Rogoz and Stephenson added 12 and 10, respectively. Alexandra Huston-Carico '08 and Zhong each contributed nine kills.

Reynolds again led MIT's defense with a season-high 31 digs, which also set an Institute record for digs in a four-game match. Efforts by the Ephs to funnel their attack at MIT's right side were countered by Zimmerman's 18 digs, while defensive specialists Buchanan and Lindsay E. Hunting '09 each added 11. Stephenson had one of her best blocking performances of the season with two solo and four assisted blocks. As a team, the Engineers continued to be dangerous from the service line, dropping 13 aces with only six errors for the match.

In semifinal action, MIT escaped the opening frame against Smith, 34-32, marred by sloppy play. After settling down and regaining the rhythm that characterized their win over Williams, the Engineers cruised to 30-21 margins in the second and third games to clinch a spot in the final.

Reynolds continued to amass digs at a spectacular pace, finishing with 18. Buchanan also reached double

figures with 10, while she along with Reynolds combined for seven aces without a service error. Zimmerman dished out 38 assists, connecting most efficiently with Stephenson, who totaled 10 kills. Rogoz paced Tech's attack with 12 kills as Jordan recorded 10 of her own.

The Engineers closed their invitational by sweeping Coast Guard, 30-26, 30-22, 30-20. Jordan scored 11 kills to lead MIT while Zhong tallied nine. Rogoz served up six aces and added eight kills. The most commanding performance for MIT came from the backcourt, where Reynolds collected 26 digs, giving her 88 for the tournament in 13 games. She also handled the bulk of the serve receiving duties with 73 receptions and a .945 accuracy percentage.

On Tuesday night, the Engineers continued their winning streak as Stephenson celebrated her 20th birthday by leading MIT to a 30-8, 30-21, 30-14 victory over NEWMAC foe Mount Holyoke College. She paced the Engineers' attack with 11 kills on just 14 attempts. Morris dished out 33 assists as MIT hit .429 as a team, with Ellen E. Sojka '08 adding six kills and Lucy L. Wang '09 and Jordan each chipping in five. The Engineers equaled a season-high 19 aces for the match, as Reynolds, Sojka and Huston-Carico each scored four times from the service line.

With the win, Tech improves to 15-3 overall and 4-0 in conference action. In addition, head coach Paul Dill became the all-time winningest coach in the program's history, bringing his 10-year career total to 250. The previous mark of 249 wins was established by Karyn Altman, who directed the women's volleyball squad from 1983-91. MIT next faces undefeated Bridgewater State Col-



(left to right) Alexandra N. Huston-Carico '08, Ellen E. Sojka '08, and Cheryl M. Kwinn '09 await a serve during the MIT Women's Volleyball team's 30-8, 30-21, 30-14 victory over Mount Holyoke College.

lege and nationally-ranked No. 23 Eastern University on the first night of the Tufts University Invitational, which the Engineers will co-host in Rockwell Cage on Friday night at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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Information Session  
Thursday, September 29, 2005  
7:00 p.m.  
Cambridge Marriott

Coffee Chats  
Friday, September 30, 2005  
10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Au Bon Pain  
245 Main Street, Cambridge  
RSVP to [sarah\\_drinkwater@mckinsey.com](mailto:sarah_drinkwater@mckinsey.com)

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